Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-094 *18 May 1993*

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Cuba

Two Sentenced for Counterrevolutionary Activities

FL1805002493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] On 17 May, the Centro Habana Municipal People's Court sentenced Paula Emilda Valiente Hernandez and Juan Guarino Rogelio Martinez to one year imprisonment, which was suspended under the condition that the accused do not break any Cuban laws for two years. Both were found guilty of instigating a crime and sentenced, based on Article 202, Chapter One, of the Penal Code. During the public, oral trial, both citizens were found guilty, of convening a counterrevolutionary demonstration in Reina Street on 1 May.

Despite the recruiting efforts of the accused, they were able to persuade only a very small group to demonstrate. They were urged to participate in this by anti-Cuban broadcasting stations in the United States. The participants were immediately neutralized by men and women who were celebrating International Workers Day and who, in this way, repudiated the effort of the small counterrevolutionary group.

The Public Prosecutors Office, represented by Edelmira Fredricks, proved the participation of the accused in the crime for which both were tried and sentenced to one year imprisonment. The public prosecutor affirmed that actions like these are rejected by the masses because the main objective is to destabilize the Revolution.

Armando Tores, president of the court, while announcing the sentences, explained the nature of the conditional suspension given to the defendants, keeping in mind that they do not have prior criminal records and could be rehabilitated back into society. Orlando Gomez Gonzalez acted as counsel for the defense.

Alarcon on Socialism and Defense of Human Rights

FL1705182493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Right now, a workshop entitled "Constitution and Human Rights" is beginning at the Cuban National Jurists Union, prior to the summit which will be held in Vienna in the middle of this year. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, made exclusive comments especially for the conclusion of the National Radio Newscast.

[Begin Alarcon recording] Well, it seems to me that the composition of the participants and the idea of the workshop will allow for a serious reflection on a topic which is very important. I think we are on the eve of an important world conference, which will be held in Vienna, where not only government representatives but also representatives of nongovernmental organizations will participate in relation to a topic of such universal importance, as important as the promotion of and respect for peoples' rights.

I think the rights we defend in a project like ours—an authentic and genuine socialism, profoundly popular—we should defend with the same force the defense and promotion of the democratic rights of the people. Socialism, for me, is the same as democracy. True democracy can be developed only in a society where there is no inequality, discrimination, and oppression; and the world is far from presenting cases in which the most elemental rights of million of people are respected. [end recording]

First CDR Congress Preparatory Assembly Held

FL1705021193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The country's first municipal assembly in preparation for the Fourth Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] Congress was held on 16 May in Julio Antonio Mella Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province, where the participants also elected the first delegates at the municipal level to attend the CDR congress.

The meeting fulfilled the goals of these times: evaluate, discuss, and analyze the local problems, and offer suggestions to solve those problems. The participants spoke of important problems such as the fight against crime, the effort to complete the sugar production plan, and the contingents of housewives and retired workers who are already supporting agricultural tasks. The participants also elected the leadership for the municipality and the precandidates to the provincial and national level. The CDR will have a congress with characteristics different from the rest, in other words, one congress in each province. Division General Sixto Batista, national CDR coordinator, pointed out:

[Begin Batista recording] The goal is to begin our congress on 1 September. The first province where we will hold our congress will be Santiago de Cuba. We think Santiago de Cuba deserves this since you have worked hard for it. Furthermore, this year is the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks. [applause] [end recording]

Accord Signed for Joint Production of Oil Products

FL1805003793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Beginning today, an accord will make it possible to produce in Cuban refineries the lubricants required for 1993 by Cuba. The commercial accord was signed by the Cuban enterprise Cupet, and Castrol Cuba S.A., a joint ownership company. The accord will make it possible, from now on, to produce all the oils and lubricants Cuba needs for 1993. The Castrol company is highly experienced in joint productions with Cuba and

according to its general vice manager, Roberto Suarez, the terms of the accord are favorable to both sides.

[Begin recording] [Suarez] We have recently expanded and diversified production. We are producing all types of oils—motor oils, hydraulic oils—necessary to our economy, and that currently meet all the requirements of Cuba's best technology.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the profits for both sides?

[Suarez] As a joint enterprise, we have cooperative production that we pay for in hard currency in accordance with the tonnage produced. In addition to this, 50 percent of the profit remains in Cuba. [end recording]

Castrol Cuba S.A. was created a year ago and is the result of the adjustments and search for new markets of the new Cuban economic strategy.

Havana City Implements New Transportation Measures

FL1705214893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Havana City government directorate and the Ministry of Transportation have felt it necessary to implement a series of new measures in public transportation, keeping in mind that this service has been deteriorating gradually since 1990. Today it is critical because of the intense use to which the already reduced fleet is subject.

Atanasio Reyes, provincial director of the transportation sector, told the newspaper TRIBUNA that one of these measures is the gradual application of passenger limits to all buses. This should be complete by June. He said this is already being implemented in the Lawton terminal, for routes 79, 100, and 174. He indicated that the measure implies technical changes in the Icarus buses to prevent passengers from hanging off the bus, and the accidents caused by this. Both regular and pivoting buses will have two doors. There will be an inspector at each door. The inspector will, as much as possible, sell tickets for passage.

Another of the important factors in meeting the above mentioned measure is an increase in state inspectors, who are now working two shifts—0700 to 1400, and 1400 to 2000. During the summer, the number of inspectors will begin at 600, but will increase to 1,000 by the end of the year.

The Havana City provincial director of the transportation sector also said that during the summer months, they hope to have approximately 150 trucks and 50 school buses supporting state transportation units full-time. Upon stating that donated buses will assist in opening other route bases in old urban bus terminals, Atanasio Reyes stressed that the taxi-buses have been accepted by the populace and that priority will be given to passengers arriving at bus and train terminals.

Regarding reduction in the number of routes, he said that 10 routes will gradually be eliminated, which will, in all cases, be conventional routes with schedules similar to express buses. Beginning there, it is necessary to dispense with the services of routes two and four, beginning on 23 May; but schedules for routes 212 and 214 will remain the same. It is appropriate to point out that the buses, which are being eliminated, will support the Express Service.

As for other routes that may be eliminated, those announcements will be made at the proper time. Reyes also said that the prioritization method of bus routing through main roads will be implemented according to future limitations. Regarding other transportation alternatives, he referred to the new train-buses, which are already operating, and the cycle-buses that transport bicycles through the bay tunnel, of which there should be 30 by June.

Politburo Member Describes Indian Seminar on Marxism

FL1805020793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Following her participation in the International Seminar on the Validity of Marxism in the Communist Party of India, Comrade Maria de los Angeles Garcia, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, who headed the Cuban delegation, made the following statements:

[Begin Garcia recording] The seminar in which we participated, representing Cuba, was very interesting and useful. We discussed the validity of Marxism in these times. We were in a truly advantageous position because we are a party that can speak of the validity of Marxism and of real results in the implementation of socialism. Other parties spoke of their experiences, doctrines, struggles, and efforts.

Twenty-one communist parties participated. There were some from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. There was a good, useful, and productive exchange. We made a commitment to meet again and continue to discuss, not Marxism in the general sense, but specific subjects and their practical implementation in various countries, given their particular characteristics.

Anyhow, every delegation praised Cuba highly as an extraordinary experience. We have felt solidarity not only from the parties participating, but also from the Indian people. We are very impressed at having seen such poor, hard-working people taking the little they have to give to their friends. This is truly extraordinary.

We participated in several rallies; some had over 12,000 people. This truly established a very beautiful communication with them. In New Delhi, they launched a new campaign to collect five million pencils and three million notebooks for the Cuban children and present it in a salute to 26 July. [end recording]

Beirut Paper Interviews Deputy Foreign Minister

NC1705141893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 May 93 p 4

[Interview with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Rodriguez Martinez by 'Adnan al-Hajj; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hajj] Can Cuba's official moves to promote trade links with Lebanon's private and public sectors be seen as part of an attempt to mend Cuba's economy or a move to ease the American blockade, which has been in force for years?

[Martinez] The Cuban Government wants to find the appropriate way to establish joint ventures and promote economic relations with Lebanon and other friendly countries to help us develop our political system. In this context, we are discussing the best ways to improve the economy, including establishing joint ventures and companies with the Lebanese private sector, which is engaged in many economic activities in Cuba and enjoys great capabilities in this respect. As for the blockade, we are continually working to curb its effectiveness. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hajj] Has your foreign trade been affected by the political developments and changes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe?

[Martinez] Of course, there is no doubt about that. In the past, 80 to 85 percent of Cuba's trade was directed toward the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, according to terms favorable to Cuba. Our trade relations were affected by the changes in those countries and we were forced to look for new markets and other relationships. I would like to stress that we still have trade relations with Russia, but not like before. Our bilateral relations are now based on mutual interests and common concerns; they are certainly not as they used to be. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hajj] Are there any negotiations to lift the American economic blockade on Cuba, especially now that the Cold War has ended and the Soviet Union has collapsed?

[Martinez] The blockade is nothing new. You know it is 30 years old; we have been trying to lift it all that time. We really do not understand the meaning of this blockade now that the danger of the so-called Cold War has been removed. We wonder how this blockade, which aims to destroy Cuba's economy, can continue.

There is a new American plan to tighten and expand the blockade. The Americans are planning to force other countries to contribute to the blockade against Cuba; this is known as the Toricelli Law. But the European Economic Council refused to observe the law, because no country respecting man and peoples could accept the blockade or the situation. So we have been trying to triumph over this blockade; this is our legitimate ambition.

[Al-Hajj] Which West European countries contribute to this American blockade?

[Martinez] We cannot say that other countries support the American policy against us.

[Al-Hajj] Have you reached any agreements with Lebanese businessmen?

[Martinez] Yes. We reached a good agreement with a Lebanese group, according to which crude oil is exchanged for Cuban goods, including sugar and agricultural material. One of the agreements was concluded with the Lebanese Basatinah Group.

Russian Delegation Discusses Economic Cooperation

FL1805012293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] A first exchange of views was held in Havana by Cuban Vice President Lionel Soto and Viktor Ivanov, the president of the Russian State Committee for the Oil Industry. In the meeting, which was described as friendly, the development of the ties between the two countries was analyzed, particularly the need to find new forms of economic cooperation. On 18 May, the Russian delegation will visit several sites in Cienfuegos: the Juragua Nuclear Plant, the oil refinery, and the fertilizer factory. It will also tour oil fields in Matanzas and the industrial zone of Santa Cruz del Norte.

Toulouse Chamber of Commerce Signs Accord With French Counterpart

FL1805121593 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The development of trade relations between Cuba and France will be advanced through a cooperation agreement between the Cuban and French Toulouse Chambers of Commerce, signed on 17 May in Havana. The document was signed by Carlos Martinez Salsamendi, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce; and (Michel Cardiff), president of the Toulouse Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on behalf of (George Barrette).

The delegation, headed by (Cardiff), who also heads the Toulouse Tourism Commission, is composed of 12 people. They will participate in a week-long gala of the food science industry at the National Hotel. The event was organized by the National Tourism Institute.

Canadian Trade Delegation Presents Donation

FL1705233193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] The goal of the delegation of Canadian businessmen and specialists participating in Havana's fourth seminar on Cuba-Canada commercial procedures, is to find practical ways to increase bilateral trade.

This is the largest delegation brought over by Canadian parliamentarian, Gene Anderson, the organizer of these commercial gatherings. The delegation includes businessmen and marketing and business professors from Canadian universities and institutes. Also participating for the first time are businessmen interested in becoming familiar with the Cuban market to find feasible joint enterprises. [passage omitted]

A sign of solidarity is the donation presented by this delegation: $30,000 in medicine, school supplies, and books on marketing methods for every Cuban University. The seminar will conclude on Friday.

Ecuadoran Government Appoints New Ambassador

FL1705221993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government has officially appointed Alejandro Roman Almendaris as ambassador to Cuba to replace Eduardo Carminiani Garces, who recently passed away from a major illness. The newly appointed diplomat had filled the post of secretary general of public administration during the presidency of the late Jaime Roldos Aguilera in 1979, and later founded the People's Party. He also worked as a reporter for EL EXPRESO newspaper of Guayaquil, where he wrote the political column and on other issues.

Since the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Ecuador and Cuba in 1978, the post of ambassador in Havana has been filled by, among others, Jorge Perez Concha and Manuel Araujo Hidalgo.

El Salvador

FMLN Faction Ends Congress, Supports Leftist Candidates

PA1805010193 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Alejando Cubillas]

[Text] One of the five forces comprising the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] ended its first congress on 16 May in San Salvador, supporting the nomination of Ruben Zamora and Facundo Guardado as presidential and vice presidential candidates for the upcoming elections.

The first congress of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, ended with the endorsement of Zamora and Guardado, and the election of 15 members of the Political Committee. Lionel Gonzalez was confirmed as first secretary general.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] This first congress reflects a history of 23 years of struggle, during which our organization has experienced an internal democratization process. The FPL and the Democratic Convergence have joined forces because they are convinced that this is the time for the left.

[Zamora] What we are trying to define here in El Salvador is very simple, but at the same time very meaningful. For the first time, our people will or will not run the government. [end recording]

According to the organizers, the closure of the congress was a big party during which those present recalled the creation of the FPL. Zamora and Facundo danced, and Nicaraguan composer and singer Luis Enrique Mejia Godoy performed. Mejia said the struggle for social transformations continues because peace is fleeting and must be consolidated with justice and liberty.

[Begin recording] [Mejia] Central America has shown that justice was always on the side of the humble people, Farabundo and Monsignor Romero. The FPL Congress reaffirmed its decision to join the political struggle for the presidency.

[Gonzalez] We emphatically reject any attempt by a party or coalition to impose its ideas on the rest of society. [end recording]

The FPL Congress called for a government that will promote structural changes.

Catholic Church Denounces Resurfacing of Death Squads

PA1805001093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Catholic Church of El Salvador on 16 May denounced the brutal murder of three people at the hands of the infamous death squads. It stated that the acts of violence that continue to occur throughout the country are threatening the peace process. Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa of San Salvador reported the discovery of the body of a young woman in a garbage pile in the outskirts of the capital city. He also reported the murder of another two young people in Rosario de Mora, a town in the south of the country. The bishop said that the three were victims of the death squads, which are right-wing paramilitary commandos who spread panic throughout the country during the 1980's. Rosa said it is important to focus our attention on these actions by the death squads, which are becoming commonplace and forcing us back to the years of the war. We must pay more attention to these events because it is important to protect the lives of the people and protect the peace process, the bishop pointed out. Several international humanitarian organizations have coincided with the church in denouncing the resurfacing of the right-wing clandestine armed groups. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission has planned a visit to our country to investigate reports of an increase in human rights violations.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Windwards Move To Join GATT for Banana Protection

FL1805013393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 17, CANA—The Windward Islands Farmers Association (Winfa) says it welcomes moves by the Governments of St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to become members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We welcome that our political leaders have had the foresight to see the importance of it. We feel that if we are inside GATT it would provide the opportunity, for instance, of maybe one of our prime ministers being able to argue the case," for retention of the new banana regime, Winfa programme officer Renwick Rose said.

Latin American banana producers and their American investors as well as Germany are strongly opposed to the new regime, to come into effect on July 1, under which Caribbean producers would continue to enjoy preferential access while Latin producers would face tariff/quota restrictions on the European market. The matter has been referred to a GATT dispute panel. Rose said Winfa was now preparing a presentation for the panel which would be a comparative analysis of the social and economic cost of banana production in Central America as against the Caribbean.

"We would like for it not to be an isolated affair... We'd like clearly to work with the governments and the banana growers associations in the region to have a joint presentation."

Announcement of moves to join the GATT were made by Foreign Affairs Minister Herbert Young, who noted it was necessary to continue the fight for survival of Caribbean bananas from within the world trade body. He told CANA Grenada and Dominica, the other two Windward Islands, were expected to move similarly.

The French and British Governments, which are championing the cause of their former and current Caribbean colonies, are reported in support of the membership application. Young said he hoped the application, which was to be sent off this week, would be processed within a matter of weeks, in time for arguments on the banana issue at the disputes panel.

Antigua and Barbuda

Activist Named First Deputy Leader of Opposition

FL1805005493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, May 17, CANA—Political activist and newspaper editor, Tim Hector, has been appointed the first deputy leader of Antigua and Barbuda's main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), party leader Baldwin Spencer announced. Spencer said Hector's appointment was ratified on Sunday at the UPP's first general council meeting following its inaugural convention last month.

Hector, who edits the weekly OUTLET newspaper, has been a prominent opposition figure for almost two decades and was leader of the Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), one of the three parties which merged to form the UPP more than a year ago.

"He has earned it. He has been one of the leading figures in the opposition. It is important that the party reflect the unity and its composition in the leadership," Spencer told CANA.

Apart from being the UPP's deputy leader, Hector was appointed chairman of a 14-member Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Committee established by the party "to consider and report on all matters .... Pertaining to the relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Commonwealth countries, and to bring to the notice of the general council and political leadership any matters involving such relations together with its report and recommendations."

Spencer said he would chair a 12-member policy committee whose task is to "consider and report on pending, contemplated, or desirable legislations, prepare a draft manifesto, prepare draft statements on policy on appropriate matters, and review on an on- going basis existing policy of the UPP and to focus on prospectives for the future in the light of changing circumstances."

Two other standing committees—a research committee to be headed by lawyer Ralph Francis; and the Rules, Regulations, and Standing Orders Committee—were also appointed.

The UPP is preparing for its first outing at the polls within the next year when general elections become constitutionally due.

Cayman Islands

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Expands Facility

FL1705174493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, May 17, CANA—Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) Bank and Trust Company (Cayman) has opened a new, four-storey, US6 million dollar addition to its Grand Cayman offices.

The new office complex will add 30,000 square feet of office space to the existing 28,000 square feet and house much of CIBC's expanded trust department and private banking services, according to a press release from CIBC.

CIBC has been in the Cayman Islands 28 years and is part of the Toronto-based bank's international operations. In 1992, CIBC worldwide reported assets of US132 billion dollars and a capital base of US9.5 billion.

CIBC is just one of 73 licenced Class A banks in the Cayman Islands that are open for daily business and local and international transactions.

There are a total of 541 registered banks in the Cayman Islands with the vast majority being Class B banks that handle only offshore accounts. The Cayman Islands are recognised as an international financial centre and offshore tax haven.

In 1992, there were US560 billion dollars on deposit among all banks in the Cayman Islands, according to government figures released through the Banking Inspector's Office.

Haiti

Reportage on Reaction To Foreign Intervention

PNDT, PNH Urge Public Opposition

FL1705163093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Reactions continue. On 15 May, National Party for the Defense of the Workers President [PNDT] Arnold Dumas called on the Haitian people for vigilance in the face of the threat of military intervention that is weighing the country down. Reverend Dumas, unlucky candidate in the 16 December 1990 elections, thinks the people will have to set up a plan of action to stand in the way of the troops.

[Begin Dumas recording, in Creole] This intervention is premeditated. Even before the 16 December 1990 elections, everything was planned so that no matter [words indistinct] in order to end up in the current situation. As we understand that, the Haitian people must also be alert. They must always follow the watchwords of the Army whose mission is to protect lives and properties. We think that all honest organizations must believe.... [pauses] ask that there be no intervention in Haiti. If the men come—I do not know whether they will sleep on the sea—but we must work to prevent their intruding on the soil or the air [as heard] because we believe it is enemies who are coming. [end recording]

The Haitian Nationalist Party [PNH] of Dr. Sylvan Jolibois has taken the same stand. It calls for general mobilization in a press release. The PNH invites the people to use any peaceful means that can guarantee the safety of the country.

PDCH, PNCH, ADSSSM Oppose Intervention

FL1705163393 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] says that everything has been planned since the deployment of the first UN observers 1990, to which the party was opposed. The PDCH, which claims to oppose any foreign intervention in the country, speaks of the threats against the security of Haiti and its neighbors inherent in the presence in Haiti of an international military force.

For its part, the National Christian Party of Haiti [PNCH] invites Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras to take the first step to avoid a possible foreign military intervention in Haiti. This first step will have to be characterized by the military's acceptance of the process of restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. [passage omitted]

That was the stand of Armand Sanon of the PNCH against military intervention in Haiti. It is almost the stance of the Saint-Marc Democratic Association for Mutual Support and Solidarity [ADSSSM], which is demanding nevertheless a people's stand. In fact, the people have said no to military intervention, according to Emile Alexis, secretary general of the ADSSSM. Alexis pointed out that the people agreed to make numerous sacrifices to prevent intervention, citing 29 November 1987 and 16 December 1990. [passage omitted]

PNOP Denounces Intervention

FL1705211993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Deployment of an international police force that can contribute to respect for human rights and to upholding peace cannot be compared to military intervention, according to a press release from the National Platform of People's Organizations [PNOP].

The platform denounces the misinformation campaign led by the pro-government sectors, which they say is aimed at prolonging the crisis situation resulting from the September [1991] coup. The coupists have proven to be more nationalistic than ever.

The Platform adds that the de facto authorities and the Army were the first to demand solid guarantees to facilitate the return of democracy, and warns the various sectors of national life against the possibility of propaganda conceived by the Bazin government to make people believe that the police force is a military intervention force.

When all is said and done, the Platform asks all social strata to refrain from participating in the festivities planned for 18 May.

Slogans Oppose Foreign Presence

FL1705204093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Jeremie reports anti-American slogans and slogans opposing the civilian mission but favoring the Army written on the city's walls. He is also reporting that unidentified individuals threw stones last week at the mission's premises. Let us listen to him:

[Unidentified correspondent in Creole] Over the past weekend, the Jeremie population discovered slogans against the civilian mission, against Americans, and in favor of the Army: Down With the UN! Down With the OAS! Down With American Police! Up With the Haitian Army! These slogans were found on a number of walls in Jeremie. According to several people, a campaign is being waged against the presence of the UN/OAS civilian mission in Jeremie.

It should be pointed out that during the night of 11 to 12 May, unidentified individuals threw stones at the UN/OAS office on Jubilee Street in Jeremie. Jean-Obed Maturin, Metropole. [end recording]

Army Head Meets With Visiting Dominican Senators

FL1705154993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Some members of the Dominican Senate visited Port-au- Prince briefly on 14 May and offered their support to the Haitian authorities. The legislators met with General Raoul Cedras and some members of the Army General Staff, as well as with Prime Minister Bazin. The Dominican senators once more expressed tneir country's disapproval of any use of force in the Haitian crisis. The Army commander in chief took the opportunity to laud the neighboring Republic's dignified attitude toward the Haitian crisis. Gen. Raoul Cedras expressed his hopes for a reinforcement of the friendly relations between the two nations and their Armed Forces.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Opposition Party Calls For Election Observers

FL1705173993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, May 17, CANA—The opposition St Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) is calling for Caribbean and international observers to monitor the conduct of the country's next general election.

The call was contained in a resolution adopted Sunday by delegates attending the party's annual convention. The resolution also called for Caribbean and international observers to be allowed to monitor preparations being made for the poll.

There is growing speculation here that the government will call elections later in the year.

In a speech to the convention, SKNLP leader Dr Denzil Douglas said a labour government would lower taxes for companies to stimulate growth in the economy.

He also said a labour government would not reintroduce personal income tax, abolished by the current People's Action Movement (PAM) government.

The SKNLP was the dominant political party here for close to three decades before it lost the government to a coalition of the ruling PAM and the Nevis Reformation Party in the 1980 general election.

Douglas said the SKNLP was open to cooperation with the business community and invited dialogue between the public and private sectors.

Douglas said priorities of a labour government included depoliticising the police force, introduction of a new health care system that was affordable and within reach of the majority of people, and the provision and even distribution of homes and land for low and middle income earners.

Urging supporters not to become complacent and relaxed over recent gains, Douglas promised a labour government would support the weak and defenceless and give a voice to the voiceless.

Another resolution adopted by the 300-odd delegates was critical of the parliamentary speaker for what it said was his impartiality. He was accused of "openly oppressive conduct towards the opposition and .. convenient and supportive conduct towards the government".

The party also accused the government of using state-owned ZIZ Radio and Television as the ruling party's private property. It called for the national broadcaster to give access to community groups and other political parties.

Trinidad and Tobago

Summation Presented by Jamaat al Muslimeen Attorney

FL1805011493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 17, CANA—The lawyer for the Muslim rebels who sought to overthrow the Trinidad and Tobago Government in 1990 began summing up his arguments Monday in the state's appeal against a court decision to uphold a presidential pardon to the plotters.

British attorney Geoffrey Robertson told the court, comprising Justices Sat Sharma, Mustapha Ibrahim, and Roger Hamel-Smith that the Acting President Emmanuel Carter had executed a conditional pardon to

the Muslims for the safe return of the hostages which included then Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

The state is contending that Carter was under pressure to sign the document because of the prevailing life-and-death situation facing the hostages. The 114 members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen were freed after two years in jail, when Justice Clebert Brooks responded favourably to their habeas corpus motion.

Robertson, who is scheduled to return to London Tuesday, had to cut short his court appearance here since the Muslims, led by Imam Yasin Abu Bakr, are unable to raise additional funds to retain his services. Robertson, however, told the court that he would be in contact by telephone and facsimile with local lawyer Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj who will continue to oversee the proceedings and reply to the other arguments by the lawyer for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Robertson told the court that the president's action to grant the pardon was the exercise of the power bestowed on him in Section 87.1 of the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution. Robertson, who had successfully argued the Muslim's case in the lower court, told the appeal court that the amnesty was not an original demand by the Muslims. He said the idea originated either from then Security Minister Selwyn Richardson or opposition parliamentarian John Humphrey, who were being held hostage in the parliament chamber.

In submission, he said, "the amnesty transformed a decision and effectively ended the hostage status of people in the Red House (Parliament) and the Trinidad and Tobago Television. "There was no condition imposed orally that arms should be laid down as a condition received in the pardon. In contrary, the state encouraged the Muslims to believe they could keep some arms." He said the release of the hostages could not be effected because of "sporadic rockets, mortar, and sniper fire" directed to the buildings occupied by the Muslimeen and the hostages.

"Throughout the night (of July 28) a great deal of gunfire was directed at the Red House from the security forces. It seems that the police did not approve of the grant of the amnesty, to the extent that they, over the radio, threatened the prime minister and other parliamentarians. The gunfire continued on Sunday morning and ensued again on Sunday night." Robertson said it was the reason Canon Knolly Clarke, who delivered the amnesty document to the parliament building, was unable to return from there on the second day of the coup attempt.

Costa Rica

Commentary Supports Rejection of Political Integration

PA1805011693 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bernd Neihaus, Costa Rican foreign minister, is currently holding meetings with Mexican authorities on bilateral agreements as part of a process that all Costa Ricans enthusiastically support. If there has been one clear thing in this government, it is the policy regarding the Central American problem. We are very happy that President Rafael Calderon has changed his position. During the previous administration former President Oscar Arias, as well as Rafael Angel Calderon, had been pressured into participating in the Central American Parliament. This consequently would be followed by the irresponsible move into political integration. Everything has now changed.

The Central American nations—particularly Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—formed the northern cone. These in turn now have pressured Panama and Nicaragua to join plans that could result in serious difficulties for Costa Rica. Our government has been very clear about this. On 15 May when questioned on this issue, President Calderon said Costa Rica has [words indistinct] trade exchange but it has no immediate interest in political agreements. We should applaud the position enthusiastically. At the same time, in Mexico the Costa Rican foreign minister is attempting to reach bilateral agreements in which Costa Rica can face the threats of the agreements with Mexico that the other groups from the region could make.

El Salvador

FMLN Faction Ends Congress, Supports Leftist Candidates

PA1805010193 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Alejando Cubillas]

[Text] One of the five forces comprising the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] ended its first congress on 16 May in San Salvador, supporting the nomination of Ruben Zamora and Facundo Guardado as presidential and vice presidential candidates for the upcoming elections.

The first congress of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, ended with the endorsement of Zamora and Guardado, and the election of 15 members of the Political Committee. Lionel Gonzalez was confirmed as first secretary general.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] This first congress reflects a history of 23 years of struggle, during which our organization has experienced an internal democratization process. The FPL and the Democratic Convergence have joined forces because they are convinced that this is the time for the left.

[Zamora] What we are trying to define here in El Salvador is very simple, but at the same time very meaningful. For the first time, our people will or will not run the government. [end recording]

According to the organizers, the closure of the congress was a big party during which those present recalled the creation of the FPL. Zamora and Facundo danced, and Nicaraguan composer and singer Luis Enrique Mejia Godoy performed. Mejia said the struggle for social transformations continues because peace is fleeting and must be consolidated with justice and liberty.

[Begin recording] [Mejia] Central America has shown that justice was always on the side of the humble people, Farabundo and Monsignor Romero. The FPL Congress reaffirmed its decision to join the political struggle for the presidency.

[Gonzalez] We emphatically reject any attempt by a party or coalition to impose its ideas on the rest of society. [end recording]

The FPL Congress called for a government that will promote structural changes.

Catholic Church Denounces Resurfacing of Death Squads

PA1805001093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Catholic Church of El Salvador on 16 May denounced the brutal murder of three people at the hands of the infamous death squads. It stated that the acts of violence that continue to occur throughout the country are threatening the peace process. Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa of San Salvador reported the discovery of the body of a young woman in a garbage pile in the outskirts of the capital city. He also reported the murder of another two young people in Rosario de Mora, a town in the south of the country. The bishop said that the three were victims of the death squads, which are right-wing paramilitary commandos who spread panic throughout the country during the 1980's. Rosa said it is important to focus our attention on these actions by the death squads, which are becoming commonplace and forcing us back to the years of the war. We must pay more attention to these events because it is important to protect the lives of the people and protect the peace process, the bishop pointed out. Several international humanitarian organizations have coincided with the church in denouncing the resurfacing of the right-wing clandestine armed groups. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission has

planned a visit to our country to investigate reports of an increase in human rights violations.

Guatemala

URNG Asks Government To End Repression, Seek Solutions

PA1705030793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2028 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 May (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 16 May urged the government of President Jorge Serrano Elias to urgently seek effective and fair solutions to the armed conflict.

A communique from the guerrilla group's command also stated it holds President Serrano and his government responsible for the consequences derived from this situation if he insists on the policy of "repression, arrogance, and threats."

The URNG asked the international community to "remain alert given the extremely critical situation that currently prevails in the country. Only this alertness will prevent ghastly incidents and repressive actions of a greater magnitude than those that have previously occurred."

The Guatemalan rebels urged the people to "continue the struggle against the government's repressive policy" and they urged police officers to disobey their commanders' orders to squelch protests.

The URNG said President Serrano's administration faces a crisis concerning "its ability to rule and the credibility of its institutions."

The guerrilla organization said protests against an increase in electricity bills, against impunity, and against the Indians' and peasants' deprivation prove the explosive situation that currently prevails in the country.

Furthermore, the capital was recently affected by the violent student protests against the elimination of a ticket which allows them to freely use public transportation.

"What currently occurs on the streets is not the result of plots and conspiracies; it is simply the fair and angry expression of a nation which demands a solution to its problem," the communique stated.

The URNG has asked the people "to remain firm concerning all its demands and their solidarity with those affected by the situation; and to state their position in every possible way."

The organization also asked National Police members to reject their commanders' orders to repress the civilian population.

The URNG assured the police officers they have every right to refuse to carry out their orders because "repression is only another example of the government's instability."

Government Asks Rebels To Stop 'Living Off War'

PA1805133793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 May 93 p 30

[Text] The Guatemalan Government Peace Commission has asked the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) "to stop living off the war and not be afraid to lay down its weapons."

Peace Commission Chairman Manuel Conde Orellana said during a news conference that the guerrillas have been using delaying tactics to prolong the conflict because it is "their primary source of income."

"It is time the rebels understand that the struggle is senseless and the only way to seek power is through civilized voting," Conde Orellana added.

Both parties accused each other of being "intransigent and irresponsible" in the most recent round of negotiations in Mexico last week.

Conde Orellana said the country desperately needs peace so the government can devote its efforts to national reconstruction.

According to the URNG, the government's refusal to allow a truth commission to investigate human rights violations committed during the war is the most difficult topic in the debate. Such a commission would conduct its investigation after a peace agreement is signed.

Army Denies Existence of Clandestine Prisons

PA1805032293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 May 93 p 16

[Text] According to an Army Information Department [DIDE] bulletin, "the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission's [CDHG] report to the United Nations and OAS indicating there are clandestine prisons in Guatemala is untrue." CDHG is headquartered in Mexico City.

DIDE refers to a news item entitled "The Existence of Clandestine Prisons Reported to UN and OAS," which PRENSA LIBRE published on page 20 in its 10 May issue.

DIDE added: "The report on the existence of clandestine jails in departmental military bases and at the Mobile Military Police in Guatemala City is untrue. It is also incorrect that, according to reports filed in March, Commander 'Everardo,' or Bamaca Velasquez, was seen after he was taken prisoner by the Armed Forces. It was officially reported that he died in combat, an incident attributed to a report released by Oswaldo Henriquez of the CDHG to international organizations."

Government Establishes Relations With Poland

PA1805040993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 16 May 93 p 13

[Text] Diplomatic relations have been established between Poland and Guatemala, after 50 years without any official direct contact. Poland is the first of the countries of the former communist bloc with which Guatemala is working out the details of exchanging diplomatic representatives.

In 1991, Poland began formalities to establish a consulate in this country, under the direction of Adam S. Braun Tarnawski as honorary consul in Guatemala. In July of 1992, the first Polish representation since World War II began work in Guatemala. In October, Kazimierz Duchowski, the Polish ambassador for Central America and Panama, based in Costa Rica, presented his credentials to President Serrano.

In the meantime, arrangements are almost concluded to establish an honorary Guatemalan ambassador in Poland. It is also expected that the Guatemalan ambassador in one of the nearby eastern European countries will present his credentials to President Lech Walesa in Warsaw as the concurrent Guatemalan ambassador in that country.

Thus, the foundations for a friendly relationship are being set, which will reflect in increasing economic, trade, cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation.

With the democratic reform, the clear course toward a market economy, and the rapid growth of private enterprise, Poland looks upon a closer approach and more direct contacts with Guatemala with great interest. As Guatemala is the largest of the Central American countries, with great potential for development and a growing market, it offers many varied opportunities for exploitation.

The promotion of contacts between private initiative and individuals in both countries for their own interest and satisfaction, as well as for the good of the two countries, must be a priority for diplomatic and consular work programs directed at establishing a strong and permanent cooperation.

Correction to President Orders Closure of Schools

PA1405151893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "President Orders 'Indefinite' Closure of 2 Schools," published in the 11 May Latin Amercia DAILY REPORT on page 11:

Column two, sixth complete paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...Commerce Institute and Central Teachers Institute for Boys during the evening.... (correcting name and rewording)

Honduras

Foreign Ministry Condemns Illegal Use of Honduran Flagships

PA1705200893 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 May 93 p 3

[Press Communique No. 011-93 issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry Information and Press Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 14 May]

[Text] Press Communique No. 011-93

The Foreign Affairs Ministry makes the following observations with regard to several negative comments and media speculation over the flagging of vessels by Honduras.

1. No Foreign Affairs Ministry official is empowered to be involved in the registration, control, or inspection of vessels.

2. Of the 45 to 50 consular posts abroad, including consular sections at embassies; general career [de carrera] consulates; and honorary consulates, only eight or 10 consulates, normally at ports where there is heavy maritime traffic, are involved in the processing of flagging requests.

3. All consular activities must be in keeping with the law, particularly the Consular Service Law, and in this specific case the Merchant Marine Law. The consuls receive requests from individuals or normally from companies who own vessels who wish to register them under the Honduran flag. They certify such requests and forward them to the state administrative unit legally empowered to process them, namely the Merchant Marine Superintendency.

4. Provisional ship registration papers, at times granted within 72 hours, and the final ship registration papers, which are granted usually within two or three months, are issued by the Merchant Marine Superintendency. Consulates do not flag vessels, they only hand over the registration papers once they arrive from the Superintendency.

5. Charges against consuls by individuals or companies must be filed on a case-by-case basis and not in an indiscriminate manner against the entire foreign service and the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Tegucigalpa. Charges will always be duly investigated by the appropriate authorities. According to the Merchant Marine Law, Honduras has an open vessel registration policy, and thus all Honduran flagship vessels are owned by foreign individuals or companies except for the industrial fishing fleet at Islas de la Bahia, coastal sailing or trading vessels, and other leisure vessels.

7. The Honduran Foreign Ministry condemns very vigorously any illegal use of vessels sailing under the Honduran flag, supports the adoption of sanctions against the violators, and above all supports the initiative to

amend the Merchant Marine Law soon to establish a more modern vessel flagging and control system that will guarantee the country's good name and best interests.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 14 May 1993
[Signed] Foreign Affairs Ministry Information and Press Directorate

Nicaragua

Finance Minister Memo Describes 'Fiscal Gap'

PA1705182693 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 May 93 pp 1,6

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera and Elisa Maturana]

[Text] An evaluation carried out by IMF and World Bank reveals that funds obtained by the Violeta Chamorro administration at the recent Consultative Group meeting in Paris totalled $40 million, not the $140 million estimated as necessary to close the country's fiscal gap.

This fact is included in a memorandum sent on 3 May by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. The memorandum was obtained exclusively by this newspaper.

On 13 May, a somewhat astonished Pereira confirmed the accuracy of the memorandum, stating that the situation "forces us to update the 1993 economic plan as soon as possible, which is also a necessary condition to legalize the ESAF [Economic Structural Adjustment Facility] with the IMF, the ERC [expansion unknown] II with the World Bank, and the Paris Club negotiations."

This newspaper was able to ascertain that a World Bank mission is in Managua negotiating a $40 million credit with the government. The credit terms were discussed on 13 May during an extraordinary cabinet meeting.

Pereira pointed out to Lacayo that "it is urgent for us to make an extraordinary effort to secure additional credit (donations and loans); proceed to aggressively renegotiate the foreign debt to be repaid during 1993, and to try to save approximately 340 million cordobas to maintain our macroeconomic balance and thus carry out the objectives pledged to the international community and the IMF."

Consulted with respect to the issue, the finance minister, who first asked how we obtained the information, stated: "This means we already know what we need to close the fiscal gap, but the funds will not be in cash, the form that most people are familiar with."

Foreign exchange is received as the government implements a program. Another part comes in cash, he explained. "We have to carry out the programs expeditiously so we can receive the money in a timely manner," the minister stated. He pointed out that in the world of foreign cooperation there are offerings, commitments, and disbursements. The latter, he stated, are "tied to programs or come in cash."

According to Pereira, "international cooperation is increasingly being geared to program implementation."

With regard to the 1993 economic program revision, the minister stated: "We have to review each working group to make sure it does not delay in implementing its programs. The working groups must implement their programs as fast as possible so that all the funds are sent."

The minister added, however, that "there is always a one year overlap. Those funds are delayed and are used the following year."

Pereira, who is also the economic cabinet coordinator, said that at the implementation level, from outside management, "we have to work more quickly. We have to get on the ball so the projects are on time. This does not mean that there will be more or fewer funds available but rather that large amounts will be tied to projects instead of sent as cash."

An independent economist consulted by BARRICADA said that Pereira's memorandum to Lacayo casts doubt on the credibility of the official in charge of the nation's accounts.

It is obvious, added the economist, that Pereira is being pressured by the IMF and the World Bank, even though he publicly denies this.

Dora Maria Tellez, president of the Economy Commission at the Legislative Assembly, announced that she will demand "an immediate report" on the difficulties the government is having in financing the fiscal gap and the effects this would have on the nation's budget as recently approved by the Legislative Assembly.

In Tellez' opinion, that issue should be taken up as soon as possible in the next round of the dialogue, because "it is a national problem."

Pereira sent the memorandum to Lacayo on the same day that the national dialogue was initiated between the government and the nation's different political and economic sectors. The contents of the memorandum were not revealed.

The "savings" of 340 million cordobas that must be made to maintain "macroeconomic balance" and close the gap would mean a further reduction of the already meager national budget.

Tellez said that the "most appropriate" decision would be to work toward a foreign debt renegotiation that would be advantageous for Nicaragua instead of cutting back "where there is no place to cut."

"If there are budget cutbacks there will be even more recession. The 1993 payments could be rescheduled. The

use of credits and expenditures should be rationalized. I am talking about efficiency. Otherwise, we will be going down a dead end street," Tellez said.

Presidency Minister on 'Fiscal Gap'

PA1705182993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1230 GMT 16 May 93

[Statement by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo in Managua on 15 May —recorded]

[Text] As is public knowledge, our country needs to import at least $600 million. In addition, we have commitments to pay debts to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], and some countries with which we have already renegotiated these debts. In addition, we need a minimum of $200 million, which means we have a total of $800 million. Yet we export only $250 million due to the adverse rainy seasons, poor coffee prices, poor cotton prices, and for thousands of other reasons we all know.

In fact, year after year—and this goes back many years to the times of Commander [name indistinct] administration—we have a gap between our needs and availabilities. Nonetheless, year after year the efforts made by our president as well as Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger with the friendly countries have allowed us to close that gap with resources coming from either donations or from very soft loans, such as the ones we obtained with the World Bank, the Central American Economic Integration Bank, and other friendly countries.

This is a permanent struggle, and we must be very clear about it. It is a permanent struggle because we are fighting against the domestic needs of those same countries. For example, the United States now wants to spend money in its own country; it wants to improve highways and so forth. We are competing against other countries that also need help; for example, the Nordic countries want to help the Baltic republics.

In addition, we are fighting against certain Nicaraguans who have unfortunately opposed this assistance. They have harmed our country by charging that foreign aid is lost and misused here, even though the AID representative herself says that every penny is duly accounted for, and this was also reported in BARRICADA about one month ago. The United States has helped us the most.

We are waging a permanent struggle. Despite all of this opposition to foreign assistance, during the most recent meeting of the consultative group held on 2 April in Paris, we obtained commitments from these friendly countries so in 1993 we are also going to close the gap. We obtained part of that money in Paris. We obtained approximately $40 million primarily from the World Bank, in addition to an offer from Germany and Switzerland.

We also received other offers, but they were left pending. We were offered $30 million by Japan, another $30 million by Taiwan, and a possible new loan from the IDB. We are working on all of that, which is the task of the Foreign Cooperation Ministry, so in 1993 we will be able to close the gap.

Aside from that, it was interesting to see in Paris that the Spanish Government gave us funds that have been promised in parts for 1993, another part for 1994, and another part for 1995. There is always a certain amount of confusion when it comes to numbers between what has been promised, what has been assigned for 1993 as opposed to future years, and what will come in liquid assets or for projects. To that effect, the media,—BARRICADA, for example—interpret certain figures as if they meant something else.

Daniel Ortega Says Country's Problems Are Economic

PA1805011193 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Shortly before the second stage of the dialogue began at the presidential building on the morning of 17 May, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that the country's main problem is economic. Ortega criticized the UNO [National Opposition Unity] politicians for failing to participate in this stage, saying they are only interested in government jobs. Ortega, who was accompanied by Commanders Jaime Wheelock and Victor Tirado Lopez, underlined that these politicians really oppose the government's economic plan.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We are keenly interested in overcoming the economic and social crisis, which is Nicaragua's main political problem. This problem deals with production, unemployment, and starvation. To correct it, the government must take immediate measures, such as granting more loans to finance production and lowering interest rates. As long as these rates remain high, producers will not have access to loans.

[Reporter] What do you think of UNO's refusal to attend today's dialogue session?

[Ortega] By failing to attend this meeting, the UNO delegates are in fact saying that they are only politicking and that they are not interested in meeting the Nicaraguan people's immediate demands for jobs, whose shortage is affecting the people because they are tied to production. In other words, the UNO delegates have said clearly that they are up against producers, workers, and the Nicaraguan people in general, and that they are just thinking about getting government jobs.

[Reporter] It has been said there is no money because more than $40 million, which should have come from the Paris Club, has not materialized. Where will the government get money for production financing?

[Ortega] There are several reports. We think this is one of the first points that the government will have to address during this meeting. It is necessary to determine how much we have. A memorandum, signed by Finance Minister Pereira, has been published by BARRICADA. Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo, upon returning from the United States, approached the issue more positively. This point should be clarified at the outset of this meeting. [end recording]

Panama

Government Minister Rejects Creation of Indian Territories

PA1705030993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 May 93 p 1a

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan Bautista Chevalier is opposed to the creation of Indian territories. Instead, he favors a well-planned agrarian reform to grant land titles to Indians and tenant farmers currently occupying the land.

Chevalier feels that the demarcation of Indian territories will result in the formation of 10 countries within the Panamanian nation and in an isolation that will not benefit inhabitants of those areas.

The minister recalled the Family Patrimony policies implemented by former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid in 1941. Under this plan, peasants and Indians were given plots to make them produce thus averting the danger of having someone snatch the land away from them.

"This is what we have to do. But if we establish an Indian territory here and another over there, then what will happen tomorrow is that the Kunas of Veracruz will wind up wanting their own territory, and so will those of 13th Street," Chevalier told reporters.

He noted that these problems must be solved once and for all so that the inhabitants of those areas—Bayano, Tole, Kuna Yala, Darien, and so on—can join our country's life and participate in its development. He added: "I recommend the creation of new corregimientos with new authorities in the areas in question."

It is necessary, the minister noted, that land titles be given to the people—tenant farmers and Indians—who have lived in those lands for many years and who have been unable to get financing because they have no documents to prove that they are the legitimate owners.

Asked about the rights that tenant farmers have in the territories in question, Chevalier stressed that "there is plenty of land out there and there should be no problem in distributing it fairly."

He said the Indian population is very poor and does not have much ability to develop. Many times, these Indians feel compelled to sell their land to penetrate deeper into the mountains.

"That type of human misery must be stopped. The state must be responsible for its citizens. It must have a coherent policy as to what it intends to do," he stated.

Interoceanic Region Authority Board of Directors Elected

PA1805033193 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Alexandra Ciniglio]

[Text] Members of the Interoceanic Region Authority elected Carlos A. Mendoza president of the Board of Directors.

Eight of the nine ARI directors participated in a news conference in which they formally announced the initiation of the institution's activities.

Carlos A. Mendoza was elected president; Carlos Valencia, vice president; and Stanley Muschett, secretary, for a 2-year period.

[Begin recording] [Valencia] We will have functions as directors. We must organize an administrative structure, which must have a top executive, who in this case will be called a general administrator. As required by law, elections will be held for the position.

[Mendoza] Whomever is elected will require a qualified majority, in other words, two-thirds of the votes. We would like to surpass that figure. I am almost sure he will be elected by consensus. [end recording]

The administrator will remain in that post for five years. He will have the same salary as a minister of state.

No specific date has been established for the administrator to assume his responsibilities. ARI directors have divided their initial duties; one of the most important being coordinating the development plan for the area.

The ARI's working plan will be based on the results of an independent study. The plan, however, will not be approved before 1995. Meanwhile, other actions will be based on the 1979 working plan.

The budget for ARI has not been established yet, but it should be around $5 million.

Argentina

Former President Alfonsin Wins Party Elections

PY1705211493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2352 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar (NA)—The Buenos Aires Radical Party [UCR] Electoral Board this evening confirmed the victory of Raul Alfonsin over Juan Manuel Casella by almost 5,000 votes in the party elections held on 9 May. The former president thus reaffirmed his desire to return to the UCR national leadership.

Alfonsin heads the list of Buenos Aires Province delegates to the National Committee, followed by Pascual Capelleri, Enrique Garcia, and Casella, who will thus be unable to become party president, contrary to what Fernando de la Rua proposed on 9 May.

The Electoral Board's delayed decision puts an end to more than 72 hours of confusion and contradictory reports that were casting doubts over Alfonsin's victory, which NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reported 48 hour ago.

The Electoral Board, presided over by Gustavo Lema, also confirmed the victory of the ticket of candidates for deputy headed by Federico Storani, and of the authorities of the Provincial Committee presided over by Mar del Plata member Angel Roig.

According to Electoral Board figures, with the data from three rural districts and six San Martin ballot boxes still missing—which cannot change the results—Alfonsin obtained 150,611 votes compared with 145,840 votes for Casella.

As for the election of Provincial Committee authorities, Angel Roig (Convergence) obtained 149,616 votes compared with 145,078 obtained by Daniel Alvador (Programmatic Agreement).

As for the national deputy candidates, Storani (Convergence) obtained 151,145 compared with 145,114 obtained by the ticket headed by Melchor Posse.

After Posse resigned his candidacy, the first nine members of the UCR ticket for deputies will be made up of Federico Storani, Horacio Jaunarena, Jose Gabriel Dumon, Elisa Carca, Jorge Teodosiu, Manuel Martinez, Juan Carlos Cabiron, Silvia Bonomi, and Silvia Vazquez.

The victory by Alfonsin has been a blow to the Buenos Aires Convergence, which since early on 10 May had claimed Casella was winning by more than 400 votes. [passage omitted]

Government To Offer Aid To Overcome Dispute With Uruguay

PY1605005493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (EFE)—Local diplomatic sources said today that Argentina probably will offer Uruguay financial aid for dredging the Martin Garcia Channel, a "waterway" of the River Plate basin near the Uruguayan coast.

According to dailies in the two countries, with this proposal the Buenos Aires government hopes to overcome the Uruguayan Government's "uneasiness" over the Argentine decision to dredge the Mitre Channel through a procedure that is considered a unilateral decision in Montevideo.

According to Montevideo dailies, the Argentine officials' approval of conditions for dredging the Mitre Channel was made unilaterally, thus violating Article 17 of the River Plate Basin Border Treaty signed in 1973 by Argentine President Juan Peron and Uruguayan President Juan Maria Bordaberry.

Argentine Foreign Ministry officials confirmed to EFE today reports from Buenos Aires dailies that Uruguayan officials are protesting the dredging of the Mitre Channel because what they really want is the dredging of the Martin Garcia Channel, which is closer to the Uruguayan coast.

The officials also said it is quite possible that the Argentine delegation will offer Uruguay financial aid for cleaning and dredging the Martin Garcia Channel.

Bolivia

President Stresses 'Improvement' in Ties With Chile

PY1705143493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] La Paz, 12 May [as received]—In his first official reference to the commitment signed on 11 May in Lima by Peru and Chile, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora stressed today, 13 May, the Peruvian and Chilean efforts to improve their relations.

Paz Zamora urged his fellow citizens to refrain from seeing "more ghosts than there are" following the signing of an agreement by Chilean Foreign Ministers Enrique Silva Cimma and Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente.

The two governments agreed to conclude the matters which have been pending for 64 years and which are included in the 1929 Treaty that followed the Pacific War waged by Chile in 1879 against the Peruvian-Bolivian alliance in defense of the rich deposits of saltpeter and guano on their respective sea coasts.

The Bolivian president said: "The treaty has not been changed and the Bolivian position concerning the Peruvian-Chilean treaty remains unchanged."

Bolivian political leaders and military chiefs have expressed fears that Peruvian-Chilean rapprochement would represent a new obstacle for the Bolivian claim of recovering its access to the Pacific Ocean.

Paz Zamora dissipated those fears stating that the treaty has not been changed. He added: "Peru and Chile are merely complying in 1993 with the provisions of the 1929 Treaty."

Bolivia lost 120,000 square kilometers of its coastal region and maintains a 100-year-old claim of recovering access to the Pacific, which must ultimately be resolved with Peru and Chile.

Drug Traffickers Reportedly Infiltrate Military for Weapons

PY1705211793 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 6 May 93 p 1

[Text] La Paz, 5 May (ANF)—General Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti, Armed Forces commander in chief, has not ruled out the possibility that drug traffickers may be infiltrating military institutions for criminal purposes.

Thus, Vargas confirmed the suspicion voiced by the Chuquisaca Military Region commander, to the effect that some drug traffickers may be promoting the theft of weapons from the Armed Forces to improve their own firepower.

On 3 May, the Chuquisaca Military Region commander reported there are indications that weapons that conscripts had stolen from a military unit probably have gone to gangs of traffickers that operate in Chapare Province, Cochabamba Department.

A few weeks ago, Army Commander-in-Chief Oscar Escobar Quiroga reported that a submachine gun was stolen from the Chuquisaca military unit and confirmed that the perpetrators are common criminals.

Escobar said: The theft of weapons to arm drug traffickers "would surprise no one because criminals resort to all available means to attain their nefarious objectives."

Vargas said that no date was set for an Army General Command transport battalion to join drug enforcement operations.

He noted that U.S. aid to equip and train the transport battalion gradually is arriving in the country. Commenting on international arms trafficking involving Bolivia, he pointed out that it was proven that no Armed Forces member is linked to this crime.

Brazil

Reportage on Reaction To U.S. Maneuvers in Guyana

Foreign Minister Reportedly 'Unaware'

PY1705142493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 May 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Despite an official version datelined Georgetown, the maneuvers by special U.S. Army forces in the jungle area in Guyana began with Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso being unaware of them. During a phone conversation from Tokyo with GLOBO, Cardoso said that the U.S. Government did not inform Itamaraty of the military maneuvers in the neighboring country. Cardoso reasserted the Brazilian policy of maintaining the sovereignty of the Amazon countries over the region.

Cardoso said: "They might have informed the Army, but I am only learning about this now." He added: "If Itamaraty knew about it, I would also have known about it."

Retired General on U.S. Troop Actions

PY1805011793 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 93 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—The deployment of elite U.S. troops in Guyana near the Brazilian border deserves careful study by Brazilian officials. This recommendation was made by retired General Danilo Venturini, who was military household chief during the government of President Joao Figueiredo (1979-1985), and who is also one of the best Brazilian specialists in that region.

According to Venturini, the U.S. Army "has a historic opportunity to get familiar with an area where its troops have never operated."

Venturini added: The Americans already have operated in jungle regions like Korea and Vietnam but the Amazon is quite different and unknown to them.

Venturini, who was responsible for a Brazilian political-military action in Suriname in 1983, said: "The region has a very peculiar situation."

He added: I do not want to make a hasty evaluation because I do not know the terms of the agreement allowing the U.S. training in that area. But, first of all, it is interesting to note that the first access of U.S. troops to the Amazon forest was possible thanks to a country like Guyana, which has a recent past close to the communist world.

Venturini says Guyana is going through a situation of permanent tension with its neighbors like Venezuela, which claims the entire western portion of the Essequibo River, which is exactly where the U.S. troops are concentrated.

On the opposite border with Suriname there is another focus of tension with nationalistic military men who are now in a truce with the country's constitutional government. It was with that military group that General Venturini carried out an action on the behalf of the Figueiredo government in 1983.

Venturini said: I do not have all the information but it is necessary to be alert to the reaction of that group in Suriname.

Maneuvers Possibly Part of Antidrug Effort

PY1805012593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 93 p 11

[Text] Makouria—One of the official explanations for the U.S. military maneuvers being conducted in Guyana is that they are training to combat drug trafficking in the region. The explanation for the maneuvers, which has not been reported on to Brazil, makes sense if one observes some cocaine trafficking routes that cross the South American continent before supplying the main European and U.S. drug-consumption centers.

According to maps drafted by the DEA, Georgetown is the last leg in South America of a route that begins in Medellin, Colombia, crosses Boa Vista, Roraima State, and ends in Miami or Washington.

Another still more important route known by the DEA and Interpol is the one that supplies drugs to Amsterdam. It starts in Medellin and Cali, reaches Paramaribo—Suriname's capital—and is flown almost daily to the Netherlands. Most of this cocaine also crosses Guyanese territory before reaching Paramaribo.

In the opinion of Georgetown police authorities, the Surinamese Government closes its eyes to drug trafficking. This worries the DEA and irritates the U.S. Government. Cocaine is taken to Georgetown in small civilian planes that land in clandestine airstrips on the outskirts of the town or even at Thimery Airport, a former U.S. air base.

The drugs are sent to Miami or Washington on board ships or small planes, or even on commercial flights. Some 30 days ago, a plane from state-owned Guyana Airways was seized in Miami with 62 kg of pure cocaine packed in a container shipped from Georgetown.

'Warning Shots' Fired at Reporters

PY1705194393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 93 p 11

[Text] The GLOBO team of reporters that has covered two days of the U.S. military activities along the Essequibo River received three M-16 warning shots. On the morning of Friday 14 [May] as we were approaching the base in two boats hired from fishermen of the region, a soldier guarding the entrance of the military bivouac shouted at us telling us to leave immediately. To show that he was not joking he fired another two [as published] shots into the air and shouted even louder: "Out, out, now!" [preceding three words in English].

There was no doubt he was serious. The day before, when we first approached the base, we were almost trapped by U.S. soldiers who forcibly seized Marcelo Carnaval's camera. We managed to get the camera back after a lot of negotiations with Sergeant Nick Nickel, but one roll of film with photographs of the bivouac was "confiscated by the Armed Forces training jointly in the jungle" according to Joseph Lion, a Guyanese sergeant guarding the base.

Nickel told Carnaval he deeply regretted the act, but added that we should not publish anything in GLOBO without his "express authorization." The U.S. "Rambo" learned the next day that we were going to publish photographs despite his objection. Operation Commander Colonel Charles Stevens took the message to Nickel after visiting the town where we spent the night. He contacted us to find out who we were in order "to inform" the Guyana Defense Forces.

We told the colonel that we were working there and that our passports had visas issued by the Guyana Embassy in Brasilia. We explained what we wanted and asked him some questions which he hardly answered. As he was leaving we told him that despite the incident involving our photographer and the shots fired at us, we had collected good photographs for publication.

The colonel said that the shots fired in sign of warning were blanks. He was unable, however, to explain why they had been fired into the air and not towards us if they were blanks.

Franco Might 'Expand' Cabinet Reshuffle

PY1705135693 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 May 93 p 4

[Article by Monica Gugliano]

[Excerpt] Surprised by the attitude of the ministers who regard themselves as center-leftist and who claim to be independent of cabinet groups, President Itamar Franco might expand the cabinet reshuffle. He is planning to include names that were not on the list of those who may leave the government team. The president did not like learning that some ministers met to coordinate their action in order to neutralize the action of the ministers whom they regard as conservative. After learning about the meeting, Franco conveyed his dissatisfaction to one of his closest advisers, to whom he poured his heart out on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Army To Study Project for Northern Border Areas

PY1705201393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 93 p 10

[Text] The Army High Command will meet this week in Manaus to consider investment priorities in the Amazon Region, where the government is implementing the

Calha Norte Project that seeks to protect and populate the Brazilian border zones in the region. Next Saturday, Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena will visit Boa Vista, in Roraima, on the border with Guyana, where he will officially dedicate the building of the First Jungle Infantry Brigade.

General Gilberto Serra, chief of the Army Social Communication Center (Cecomsex), said: "We have been in the Amazon Region for more than 50 years. Today it is our top priority."

The Calha Norte Project to occupy the area north of the Amazonas River—which has a 6,500-km border with Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, and Colombia—was secretly designed by the military during the Jose Sarney administration in 1985. The project was included in the First Plan for Development of the Amazon Region, without Congressional approval. The official objective of the plan was to safeguard national sovereignty in border regions and to prevent friction with guerrillas of Colombia (M-19) and Peru (Shining Path).

Correction to Air Force Chief Denounces Campaign

PY1405211893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Air Force Chief Denounces Campaign Against Armed Forces," published in the 14 May Latin America Daily Report on page 21: First column, fourth complete paragraph, first sentence, make read ...the air force commander, will pubish today a manifesto in which he.... (changing title; changing "advertisement" to "manifesto") Same paragraph, second sentence, make read... national and international media organizations and disaffected radical sectors." [new graf]

Da Frota cites as.... (rewording)

Chile

Entrepreneur Makes Accusations Against Former U.S. Ambassador

PY1705155593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 16 May (EFE)—Chilean entrepreneur Carlos Cardoen, who amassed a fortune selling bombs to Iraq, alleges that the U.S. Government asked him to become an informer in exchange for dropping charges against him.

In an interview published in today's issue of LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, Cardoen said that the proposition was made by former U.S. Ambassador to Chile Charles Gillespie.

Cardoen said that he turned down the proposal, although "had he accepted he would probably have avoided being in this mess."

Cardoen thus alluded to an extradition request that will be filed by Eduardo Palmer, an aide to the Miami (Florida, United States) district attorney, as expeditiously as possible, charging Cardoen with violating U.S. export laws by shipping zirconium from the United States to Chile to manufacture explosive devices for military purposes, which were then sold to Iraq.

Cardoen stated that his attorneys in the United States were notified on 12 May that an indictment against him is currently being prepared by the Florida state prosecutor, who will also file an extradition request so that Cardoen will stand trial in the United States.

Cardoen anticipates that the first step against him will be Palmer's request for his preventive detention, adding that the Chilean Supreme Court is obliged to agree, which entails his imprisonment for up to 60 days. This is the deadline the government has to decide on the extradition request.

Cardoen stated: "If jail is the price I have to pay to remain in the game, then I will probably spend some time deprived of my freedom. I am ready to do so to finally end this slanderous campaign."

Cardoen explained that the indictment is based on the export application form he filled in for the Teledyne Company in Oregon State, in which he failed to include information about the final use of the zirconium, namely that it was going to be used to build explosives for military use.

He made it clear that "all the U.S. Embassy officials (in Santiago) involved in this issue—the military attaches and the ambassador—knew at that time that the zirconium was used to make explosives for military use."

Cardoen has filed two lawsuits against the U.S. Customs Service for unlawfully withholding his personal property, the value of which is estimated at $50 million.

A prototype helicopter, manufactured in Chile under the license of the Bell company and which was sent to the United States to obtain its flight certificate, is included among Cardoen's property.

Cardoen said that U.S. authorities confiscated this helicopter on the grounds that it could easily be converted for military use and then sold to Iraq, which after allying itself with the United States during its war against Iran up until 1988, then became the United States' bitter enemy following the invasion of Kuwait.

Cardoen has already won the first round of a lawsuit over the intervention of Swissco Properties, a real estate company in Florida.

Cardoen believes the U.S. Government disapproves of his trade relations with Cuba, to which he provides technical assistance for fruit production and the processing of natural and frozen citrus fruit juice.

Colombia Court Official Says Money Laundered in Chile

PY1705132193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The vice president of the Colombian Supreme Court told the 24 Horas television program that he believes the only way to eliminate drug trafficking is to legalize drugs. He said that Chile has become a drug-money laundering center.

Colombian justice is undoubtedly the most affected in the world by drug trafficking. Even though Colombia has the largest number of murdered judges, it continues to strive for peace and calm.

Edgar Saavedra visited Chile to participate in a jurists' congress organized by the students of the Law School of the University of Chile. He admitted the difficulty of keeping drug traffickers in prison.

[Begin recording] [Saavedra] It is not easy because of their high degree of corruption. In spite of the fact that there are some corrupt officials, there are also very honest ones who have chosen to die rather than become corrupt. I am fully convinced that drug trafficking will not end until drugs are legalized. I believe the struggle against trafficking has just started. It is the most profitable business in the world and as long as that continues there will be people willing to risk their lives or their freedom to obtain easy money.

[Reporter] How do you see the drug problem in Latin America in general?

[Saavedra] I have stated this many times. This problem not only involves the United States and Colombia. It is a worldwide problem. There are countries that do not produce drugs but I have information, for example, that Chile has become a center for the laundering of narco dollars, as used to be the case of Montevideo and Buenos Aires. [end recording]

Coalition of Parties Agree on Candidates for Congress

PY1705152093 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpts] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy has reached agreement on the list of candidates for Congress. Eduardo Frei, presidential hopeful for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], said the negotiations are over and emphasized the formation of a single list of candidates for Congress.

Christian Democratic Party President Eduardo Frei this morning opened the PDC national meeting. He evaluated the current political situation, noting the unity in the PDC and the success of the party members registration for the upcoming primary elections. He said that, after hard negotiations, an agreement had been reached with the other parties of the coalition on a single list of congressional candidates. [passage omitted]

The idea of a single list of congressional candidate was submitted for approval by the national leadership. Although some details such the quotas for smaller parties must still be resolved, it was established that one list, comprising the PDC, the Radical Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the PAC [Centrist Alliance Party] will have 65 candidates for deputies. Another list made up of the Socialist Party, the PPD [Party for Democracy], and the PDI [Leftist Democratic Participation Movement] will register 55 candidates for Congress.

Colombia

Pablo Escobar Nephew Released 'Safe and Sound'

PA1805044993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Medellin, Colombia, 17 May (AFP)—After remaining a few hours with a group of unidentified individuals, Nicolas Escobar, nephew of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, was released safe and sound the night of 17 May, according to Emisoras Caracol Network.

According to one of the radio station's reporters, who spoke with Nicolas Escobar, in apparently good health, Escobar said he did not know why he was abducted by three men and a woman, who had taken him by force from a restaurant in the exclusive neighborhood of El Poblado.

The source does not know anything about the fate of Jimmy Ospina, a friend of Nicolas, who was also kidnapped by the mysterious group, which at first pretended they belonged to the government's secret service. [passage omitted]

Producers Support Minimum Coffee Price

PA1405142193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The announcement that Colombia will not sell its coffee for less than $0.69 a pound on the international markets received the general support of coffee producers. This was confirmed on 13 May in Manizales during a forum held by ministers, coffee producers, and congressmen. During this forum, the coffee producers went right to the point. In the same manner that they defended the benefits of the National Coffee Fund and the right to work for 2 million persons who live off this grain, they also attacked the government for the exchange rate. Nevertheless, they did accept that fixing $0.69 per pound as a minimum price on the international market is a light at the end of a tunnel, although it will require aggressive marketing. Here is what Jorge Robledo, member of the Coffee Producers' Union, said:

[Begin Robledo recording] What cannot continue is the price war among the producers, otherwise the multinational companies will continue to speculate and will continue to reduce the revenues of the world's coffee producers. [end recording]

The coffee federation had accepted the challenge over the last four years thereby enabling the Colombian coffee producers to be in a better situation in a free market than their counterparts in other nations.

[Begin coffee grower Rodrigo Garavito recording] We cannot stimulate growth and production without guaranteeing the local producers markets that can guarantee the prices. This is fundamental. [end recording]

It was agreed at the forum that the $0.69 minimum price only covers costs because to maintain the infrastructure, an $0.80 per pound price is needed.

Ecuador

President Duran-Ballen Approves IMF Letter of Intent

PA1405144 93 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen has approved a letter of intent with the IMF that contains the 1993 economic plan. The letter of intent will be given to the IMF director in Washington for his consideration and approval. This is the step the country must take in order to secure stand-by loans and possibly reschedule its debt with the Paris Club.

Finance Minister Mario Rivadeneira said that the adjustment of telephone and electricity rates are part of its commitment with the IMF to rationalize and autonomize the sector. In the next few days the country, along with the IMF, will present the letter of intent.

Transportation Groups Reach Agreement, Lift Strike

PA1805025993 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The country's urban transportation groups have decided to suspend the progressive strike, which started on 16 May, given an agreement with the national government. The agreement is limited to the payment of subsidies; nothing was said about fares and the transportation groups' representatives had no opportunity to bring up the issue.

[Begin recording] [Government Minister Roberto Dunn Barreiro] You are well aware that we have been holding meetings with directorate board members of Ecuador's national transportation groups. We have talked about the situation, which arose a few hours ago. The result of these talks is that effective 17 May, public transportation vehicles will again circulate normally in all the cities of Ecuador—under the same conditions. We have authorized certain payments that, we admit, have been pending for some time. The Finance Ministry has carried out the appropriate transfer of funds and orders have been issued to pay accrued subsidies. The transportation groups have reasonably agreed to resume their activities on 17 May. Here is Mr. Hugo Penafiel, who will confirm what I have stated.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what about an increase....

[Dunn interrupts] Excuse me, let Mr. Penafiel talk about this. Then I can answer any question you want.

[Penafiel] Well gentlemen, to be frank, the directorate board is ready to sign a $72 million credit that will allow, based on the system already established with the Industry Ministry, the export of bananas in exchange for the import of vehicles under easy terms, so they can be paid by the transportation groups' members. This is an overall solution to the transportation problem.

[Reporter] Mr. Penafiel, could you please....

[Dunn] Excuse me, this is a Government Ministry news conference. Thank you.

[Reporter] Mr. Penafiel, is there an agreement with the National Government to refrain from increasing the fares?

[Penafiel] No need to worry about that. Consequently, we will resume our activities on 16 May and we will wait and see what the executive commission has to say in a few hours. Thank you.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Penafiel] The strike is [words indistinct] in the list of demands we presented. [end recording]

That was the news conference in which transportation leader Hugo Penafiel was practically unable to answer any questions. Minister Dunn did not let him answer any questions. In fact, Penafiel was asked to leave through the post office's doors rather than the Government Ministry's front door, so the media, which covers events at the government palace, was unable to ask him questions.

It is appropriate to mention that transportation leader Hugo Penafiel announced that they will nevertheless support the strike convoked by the United Workers' Front for 26 May.

Paraguay

Seifart: Election Results 'Will Be Respected'

PY1705183693 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 May 93 p 3

[Interview with virtual vice-president elect Angel Roberto Seifart by unidentified HOY reporter in Paraguari on 16 May]

[Text] [HOY] What will you do if the opposition requests the annulment of the elections?

[Seifart] We will ensure that the legitimate results, reflected in the vote count currently underway, will be respected. So far there are no legitimate grounds, there is not even any concrete evidence that may slightly prove the existence of the alleged irregularities being reported in an irresponsible manner by the opposition. Anyhow, Congress has the last word in the matter.

[HOY] Will you accept the decision if the elections is annulled?

[Seifart] First we have to see the evidence and the grounds, because so far there is nothing concrete, nothing serious. It all seems to be a strategy with who-knows-what unearthly purposes.

[HOY] Are you the maintaining contacts with the Colorado faction headed by [Luis Maria] Argana in view of a possible runoff?

[Seifart] By no means. We will see that the legitimacy of the results is respected. We will respect Congress's ruling. It cannot be an arbitrary or capricious decision. We want proof, it has to be a perfectly legitimate decision.

[HOY] Were the elections open?

[Seifart] Of course. I am certain that once Congress receives all the vote tally proceeding records, once they have been checked by the watchers of all the political parties and movements, it will give its verdict. Absolutely no evidence regarding alleged irregularities has been found so far but Congress will not refuse to review the vote tally proceeding records either. We are very confident and hope that time will show that the elections were, in fact, open and clean. Nothing can stain the Colorado Party's victory.

[HOY] But some vote tally proceeding records and the envelopes containing them arrived damaged.

[Seifart] We all know that in our country transportation and facilities to transport people and documents is limited. The important thing is that the vote tally proceeding records have not been forged. According to the information I have at hand, so far the records match the information that National Encounter Alliance and PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] watchers' have. There is no discrepancy between the results in the vote tally proceeding records and the data the opposition has.

[HOY] What did you mean when you said that your patience has a limit?

[Seifart] Just that; we will not allow the Colorado Party to be a victim of injustice.

[HOY] In what way?

[Seifart] In any way. We will not tolerate being victims of injustice. You can be certain about that. The Colorado Party has always made sure it is respected, it has made sure its rights are respected, as we have respected other peoples' rights. But don't provoke us.

[HOY] Would you resort to force?

[Seifart] If it is necessary to prevent injustice, yes, we would resort to force.

Seifart Sees 'No Problems' in Governing Country

PY1705231293 Asunción ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 93 p 5

[Text] Angel Roberto Seifart, likely vice president of the Republic, said yesterday there will be no problems in governing the country during the next constitutional period because there will be the support of the majority (ANR) [National Republican Association—Colorado Party]. Seifart added that the opposition's majority in the future Congress will not be a problem because negotiation and agreement are part of democracy to facilitate the administration of the country.

Seifart said the majority of the people gave full legitimacy to the election results; therefore, there can be no problems in governing the country. He made this comment at the end of the military parade to celebrate Independence Day [15 May] in answer to questions about the opposition's doubts about the elections.

He was told that the opposition's majority in Congress could obstruct some government proposals. He answered: "That is no problem. This is what democracy is for, to negotiate and reach agreement to facilitate the country's administration."

Asked about the irregularities reportedly committed in the elections according to charges made by the opposition, Seifart said the alleged irregularities have not been proven yet. He added: "This is much ado about nothing."

Seifart, who heads the Renewal Movement, denied any disagreement with the other party movements that are getting ready to negotiate the formation of the government leadership. He said: "There is absolutely no such thing. It is sad when the press is used many times for intrigue and slander aimed at disgraceful political purposes."

Seifart emphasized that the commitment to sharing power that was agreed to when the Renewal Movement joined the presidential ticket headed by [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy will be fulfilled. He said: "That commitment will be fulfilled; there is absolutely no problem in doing that."

He did not want to confirm how many ministries his movement will get based on a prior agreement. He added he cannot reveal a matter that is just beginning to be studied at the highest level.

According to information disclosed last year when the agreement on the presidential ticket was reached, the Renewal Movement will get three ministries as part of the distribution of positions.

Gen. Oviedo on Elections, Transition to Democracy

PY1705195493 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1608 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] General Lino Cesar Oviedo, the First Army Corps commander, told a reporter of his satisfaction that the international press observed the democratic elections on 9 May.

[Begin recording] [Oviedo, in progress] ... peoples, thus finding what is so dear to every citizen, wellbeing and common good in peace, freedom, and democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] Many Paraguayans who live in Formosa, Argentina, would like to return home. What would you tell them?

[Oviedo] Of course we will warmly welcome them! Who would not want his brother to return to his country to jointly build the nation's future! They will be warmly welcomed.

[Reporter] Did the military support Wasmosy in this election?

[Oviedo] I cannot answer that question, because votes are secret and I cannot say who supported who. Everyone has his own feelings, and all of us know that the right to vote is universal and that it is secret. Everyone must have cast his vote, and I cannot tell you who voted for whom.

[Reporter] Do you think that, with the support of the Army, Wasmosy will fulfill his term as established by the Constitution?

[Oviedo] You have the answer in Argentina, where President Menem, who is a very smart, capable, and intelligent person, governs the country with the support of, and in total harmony with, the Armed Forces. No country in the world can achieve development without the guarantee of its national security.

[Reporter] Will this be a democratic transition government?

[Oviedo] Of course, you [not further identified] are also in the third stage of the democratic transition while we are entering the second. You know very well what happened in your country after the military government transferred power to civilians. Here we are very happy to do it today. As we have already said, the president for the 1993-98 period will be a civilian. This shows it is a real democratic transition in the hands of a civilian. [end recording]

General Oviedo To Obey New President's Orders

PY1705221493 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 May 93 p 10

[Article by ULTIMA HORA "regional agent" Oscar Galeano]

[Text] Encarnacion, Itapua Department—First Corps Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo said that he will obey the orders of Juan Carlos Wasmosy, the likely Armed Forces commander in chief, in the sense that he will work for the country either "as military man or a civilian."

Gen. Oviedo was in this city yesterday to visit a horseback riding club.

Regarding his military future in the government of Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Oviedo categorically said: "I will obey as a Paraguayan what he orders as commander in chief, wherever I can be more useful to him, either in the military or civilian fields. My work post will be where I can be more useful to my superior, the commander in chief, or to my countrymen."

[Galeano] Where will you find yourself more comfortable, general?

[Oviedo] A soldier is comfortable wherever he gets orders. We never choose sites. This is why we accept the sacrifices of a military career. We never choose the day, hour, Sunday, or holiday. We go wherever our mission is.

[Galeano] Apparently the Armed Forces want to work independently of the commander in chief. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Oviedo] What I want is for journalists to read the Constitution. We, Armed Forces members, did not write the Constitution. The Constitution says who should be the commander of the military forces and the National Police.

[Galeano] What are the Armed Forces' urgent needs?

[Oviedo] We are stoical members of the military profession. We do not seek material wealth or comfortable palaces or luxury. What we always seek is that those humble peasants who become conscripts, and the soldiers who come to our garrisons, fulfill their military service and get dignified treatment and the necessary training so they will be prepared to help national development when they return to their homes.

[Galeano] There have been many repercussions to the heated speeches you delivered before the 9 May elections. What is your opinion as a citizen?

[Oviedo] I do not want to judge myself. I should be judged by honest people who are not involved with groups or with discriminating concepts. When one does something with conscience and satisfaction and then discloses it to the people, it means that one does it

conscientiously and feels responsible for it. If I said something outside the juridical framework, those concerned should appeal to the law existing in Paraguay and not to offensive epithets by taking advantage of an available infrastructure because they are journalists.

[Galeano] Whom are you referring to, general?

[Oviedo] Look who is talking in Channel 13 about Paraguayanism and patriotism.

Opposition Protests Election 'Corruption' During Parade

PY1705150193 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 May 93 p 38

[Text] At the end of yesterday's parade along Mariscal Lopez Avenue [to celebrate the anniversary of Paraguayan independence], a minor incident took place when a group of National Encounter Alliance and the Authentic Radical Liberal Party supporters, who had staged themselves opposite the podium where President Andres Rodriguez and other authorities were seated, displayed posters reading "Democracy, Rest in Peace."

The group became more animated when virtual President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy appeared. The police then acted more harshly, surrounding the crowd and pushing them toward the sidewalk.

A spokesmen of the group said later that the purpose of the demonstration was to protest the fact that the people's will was ignored on 9 May. A few minutes earlier, however, a group of Colorado Party supporters, waving red scarves, cheered the tanks and troops participating in the parade without being bothered by anybody.

After being pushed back and shouting "corruption" and "you won by cheating" to the authorities, the demonstrators withdrew without further incidents.

However, the way in which the police acted when the posters were displayed was noticeable. The police at first tried to take the posters down by force, which they only achieved partially.

Spanish Government Recognizes Wasmosy's Victory

PY1805025293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 May 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has sent cordial greetings to Juan Carlos Wasmosy, likely president of the Republic, wishing him success and offering the Spanish Government's goodwill in the following terms:

"I and the Spanish Government would like to convey cordial congratulations for your victory in the 9 May elections held in your country."

The message also says that our country "now begins an important stage of democratic coexistence that can only benefit the development and well-being of all the Paraguayan people."

Felipe Gonzalez also wished Juan Carlos Wasmosy "all kinds of success and I offer you my friendship and the best goodwill of the Spanish Government. Sincerely yours. Felipe Gonzalez Marquez, president of the Spanish Government." [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Calls For National Justice, Friendship

PY1705155193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 May 93 p 16

[Excerpt] On the Day of the Fatherland, President Andres Rodriguez sent a brief message to the nation expressing his fervent desire that all Paraguayans will always fight for everlasting justice and brotherhood in our country. After explaining that he was speaking as the president of all Paraguayans, Rodriguez asked everyone to forget rancors and hatred and to live within an environment of understanding and "to build, together, a prosperous and happy Paraguay." He said this at Government Palace upon receiving greetings from ministers, high-ranking military officers of the Paraguayan Armed Forces, members of the diplomatic corps, and members of the press. The president was accompanied by his wife, Nelly Reig de Rodriguez.

Previously, the president attended the traditional Te Deum at the Metropolitan Cathedral, which was conducted by Asuncion Archbishop Felipe Santiago Benitez. The archbishop prayed that all Paraguayans will live honest and peaceful lives. He also prayed for the poor and demanded permanent care for the aged.

Also present at the religious ceremony were self-proclaimed president Juan Carlos Wasmosy and his wife, members of the top military board, ambassadors from friendly countries, and representatives of international organizations accredited to the national government. [passage omitted]

Military Commander Views Possible Elimination of Post

PY1705200793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 May 93 p 17

[Text] Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, commander of the Military Forces, yesterday said that his post was created by the Constitution and that the bill that was submitted to Congress only seeks to regulate his functions. He emphasized that Congress can reject, modify or replace the bill, but it cannot eliminate the post of commander of the Military Forces. He said: "It is a matter of interpretation."

The bill that the executive branch submitted to Congress provides for creation of the post of commander of the

Military Forces. Gonzalez Petit had already been designated to this post through a decree signed by President Andres Rodriguez.

Asked whether Congress could eliminate his post, Gonzalez Petit replied that by no means can Congress eliminate a post created by the Constitution. He said that by designating the commander of the Military Forces, the executive branch simply complied with a constitutional provision.

He added: "The executive branch submitted the bill because Law No. 74 on the organization of the Armed Forces was approved in 1992, before the promulgation of the Constitution. This law had to be updated, introducing everything required by the Constitution. That is the reason why the bill has now been submitted."

He said: "The Constitution creates the post and sets forth that the president designates the commanders. The bill submitted aims solely at regulating this part of the Constitution."

Asked about what would happen if Congress decided to eliminate the post of commander of the Armed Forces, he said: "Who says?" He added: "No, no. I don't think so. I did not read that report."

When told that Congress might reject the bill creating the post of commander of the Armed Forces, he said: "Congress can obviously reject, replace, or modify. But it cannot reject the creation of the post, because it is established in the Constitution."

Asked about what will happen if Congress differs and rejects the creation of the post, he replied: "It doesn't matter. Details can be changed until Congress is satisfied, but Congress cannot eliminate what the Constitution has already created. The Constitution created the post and the law will regulate its functions," he insisted.

When told that the Constitution does not specifically create the post of commander of the Military Forces, he replied: "Well... it says the executive branch can designate the commanders. So it is clear. I have no doubts," he said.

Peru

Reportage on Shining Path 'Armed Strike' 17 May

Fujimori Says People Defeating Strike

PA1705135593 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1258 GMT 17 May 93

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Rocio Vicente in (Comasicoyique), Lima—live]

[Text] [Vicente] At this very moment President Alberto Fujimori is visiting various parts of the capital city.

Good morning Mr. President, what have you been able to see?

[Fujimori] Here along Tupac Amaru Avenue in (Comacoyique), the situation is almost normal. Those who are helping the most are the strongly criticized microbuses. I believe that on this occasion they deserve the people's praise and that of my office in particular. I have noticed that some of the big buses are off the street, but all in all, as you my reporter friends have seen, the situation is normal. Except for the farthest point of (Comacoyique), the situation is, I repeat, normal. I think everyone should contribute in this struggle against terrorism. Lima's 7 million residents must go to work and each one, from their place of employment, must confront....

[Vicente, interrupting] Mr. President, is it difficult to get transportation?

[Fujimori] I repeat, the transportation problem is only temporary. I hope everything will return to normal when the transportation sector convinces itself that the situation is normal and that the Army and National Police are patrolling the city carefully.

[Vicente] Is security being guaranteed?

[Fujimori] That is correct. Every guarantee is being given. If something should happen, if an attack should occur or a vehicle is burned, the government guarantees its repair. The government has done this with dozens of vehicles.

[Vicente] Some workers are frightened. Many have not arrived at their place of employment. Will they be given some consideration?

[Fujimori] Yes, there will be some consideration given in view of the fact that the situation is practically normal. We will take into consideration that some delays are possible. This so-called armed strike is being defeated by the people.

Fujimori Explains Rebels' Options

PA1805040293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The compulsory strike the Shining Path has called has failed. President Alberto Fujimori visited various parts of Lima early this morning. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] It was confirmed today that the Shining Path is weak, disorganized, and (?incohesive). However, this does not mean we can declare ourselves the winners.

[Correspondent] Is the population (?participating) as it should?

[Fujimori] Affirmative. The population's participation is essential and vital to defeat terrorists. This is a fight between 22 million Peruvians and approximately 1,000 remaining Shining Path rebels, including the middle-rank and rank and file perpetrating the actions. They have no instruments, they lack organization, and they are demoralized. What will the government do with the 1,000 remaining rebels? We will continue to perform our

intelligence work—in which the population is participating satisfactorily—and capture them. We will confront and annihilate them whenever necessary. We have no choice. There are only two...[pauses] I mean, three alternatives for the terrorists:

1. Defect from Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement ranks and seek refuge in the Repentance Law;
2. Be captured by our intelligence service;
3. Be annihilated. [end recording]

Labor Official Says 94 Percent Working

PA1805042193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] It has been reported that 94 percent of the Lima workers went to work, according to Deputy Labor Minister Luis Villar.

[Begin Villar recording] We can say workers went to work en masse today. According to our nationwide reports, 100 percent went to work in the country's interior. As you know, there were some difficulties in Lima at the beginning because of the lack of transportation. At 1030 [1530 GMT] or 1130, however, 86.4 percent of the workers were at their posts. Some workers had to take up to two vehicles. This morning we suggested that, just as each worker made every effort to get to work, patriotically and responsibly, employers should understand that some workers have had difficulties. [end recording]

Car Bomb Explodes During Strike

PA1705155393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1504 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Lima, 17 May (AFP)—President Alberto Fujimori, who toured outlying regions of Lima on 17 May, declared that "nobody is frightened by these armed strikes." He made the statement shortly after a car bomb exploded in front of a fishing terminal on the first day of an armed strike called by the Shining Path guerrillas.

"Here I am, surrounded by citizens who are ready to face the threats, participating in this crusade against terrorism and searching for peace, reporting for work at their places of employment," the president said in his tour of the well-populated districts, including Comas and Coquillique.

"Nobody is afraid of the so-called armed strikes or terrorist threats. The people are convinced that terrorism will be defeated soon," he said.

A car bomb loaded with 100 kg of ammonium nitrate fuel oil and dynamite was set off by Shining Path members early on 17 May in the Lima district of Villa Maria del Triunfo, south of central Lima. The explosion caused considerable material damage to adjoining establishments and homes, but no victims, the local television station reported.

At the same time, a taxi driver was killed by another Shining Path commando in the district of La Victoria, apparently because he did not join the strike.

Fujimori Comments on Investigation Into CLAE Activities

PA1405153693 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said that he favors an investigation of the Latin American Business Advisory Center [CLAE]. He offered the presidential airplane for the corporation director, investors, and media to visit the locations where the center's account holders' money is being invested. He said that he would support any measure aimed at strengthening the organization.

[Begin Fujimori recording] It would have been good if the corporation could continue to operate and serve its small savings account holders. In order for all to regain trust in the CLAE, which I hope will happen, I believe it is important for the CLAE to reconsider its position on this and to fully open its records—which I am sure are duly substantiated—and allow inspection. If they speak of highly productive enterprises, for example, they should simply say which enterprises they are and how much they have made. They could also take you journalists and say: Look, here we have this enterprise, the lobster plant, and the asparagus company. That way you can see for yourselves as journalists. There is no need for a precise evaluation. Furthermore, I would very gladly place the presidential airplane at the corporation's disposal for CLAE directors and journalists to travel to the lobster plant and the asparagus plant and see that they are, in fact, companies that substantiate CLAE profitability. I want to support any measure aimed at strengthening this organization, and by no means seek to weaken it. Now, the demands made by the Superintendency of Banks have valid legal grounds and exist to benefit the people. [end recording]

Fujimori Inaugurates Commerce Congress

PA1405164493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Second National Congress on Commerce has been inaugurated under the title: The Peru of Reinsertion to Development. Local and foreign businessmen are participating. The speakers will discuss the economy, education, technology, and means to develop international trade during the three-day congress.

President Alberto Fujimori delivered the inaugural speech. He said Peru is ready to start developing. He added that Peru rose from the penultimate place in the world to become the nation with the second fastest growing securities market in the world. Fujimori reaffirmed that his government will continue transforming the country at the same pace to the point it will become unrecognizable by the year 2000.

[Begin Fujimori recording] From the penultimate place in the world, Peru has become the second fastest growing securities market not in Latin America, but in the world. We must be very aware of the fact that we (?had to make plans) in order to achieve this. The word reinsertion is very popular now; it is easily said, however, it reflects a reality, a process of great (?decisions), of great sacrifices to achieve [words indistinct].

Gentlemen, we will continue making genuine transformations in Peru at this same pace. Transformations will be so great that those who knew the Peru of 1990 will not easily recognize it by 2000. I am not saying I plan to stay until 2000. I am talking about the bases we have built, the speed in which we have developed, and the trend of Peruvian development in the future should we manage to maintain the same conditions that are fostering it at present.

I said once that I have a conviction, a dream. I dream of seeing Peru transformed into the center of gravity of Latin America's economic, financial, and industrial activity. [end recording]

Drug Trafficking by Plane Reportedlly Dropping

PY1705212393 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 May 93 p 6

[Text] Lieutenant General Jose Nadal Payva, Peruvian Air Force [FAP] commander, stated that drug trafficking has substantially decreased at the air bases that have been under direct FAP control for one year.

He said this after a two-day tour of Upper Huallaga bases.

Nadal stated that activities by small planes used by drug traffickers decreased in Upper Huallaga to the extent that no flights were reported in the first 18 days of April.

He added that this was accomplished with the support of AWACS and Orion electronic surveillance airplanes from the U.S. Southern Command and the DEA.

The area is under airborne surveillance 24 hours a day, backed by the Yurimaguas mobile radar.

Nadal said drug traffickers have been scattered all over the area because they lost their fixed, safe, accessible, and economically advantageous locations for their illegal airborne activities.

He said: "They are searching for new spots from which to operate and these spots turn out to be unsafe and riskier and costlier. It has been learned that they fly at night to land on the Federico Basadre and Marginal highways."

He noted that drug traffickers are facing problems because the drug enforcement forces are hampering the use of the air route.

Assessing the control exerted by the FAP in Uchiza, Nadal said the small airplanes used by drug traffickers averaged 32 flights per month in 1992.

Nadal also confirmed the precarious situation prevailing at FAP emergency facilities at airports and landing strips. These facilities consist mainly of tents or small wooden shacks.

Congressman Discusses War on Drugs

PY1705221193 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 May 93 p A4

[Interview with Congressman Julio Castro, Congressional Supervision Commission's coordinator for the work team responsible for analyzing drug trafficking, by unidentified EL COMERCIO reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL COMERCIO] The shooting down of drug traffickers' planes in the Huallaga region has increased, has it not?

[Castro] No. The defense minister's report on activities in the Huallaga Emergency Zone says drug traffickers' use of airstrips in the area where the Air Force established control has decreased during the day. But drug traffickers now use those airstrips during the night.

The Air Force, the DEA, and the police lack the technical capability to operate at night. Besides, the report issued by the Armed Forces Joint Command chief after visiting coca-producing areas at the end of last month is of great concern to us. He said light planes make some 10,000 flights over the zone annually. This means they transport between 4,000 to 5,000 tonnes of cocaine paste a year.

[EL COMERCIO] How much cocaine does the country produce?

[Castro] Local agencies handle production figures with little responsibility, and this is regrettable. According to the Narcotics Supervision Board based in Vienna, there were 350,000 hectares of coca plantations in December 1992. This figure represents a 40 percent increase compared with total plantations in 1990. But our work team also has received a report from the U.S. organization EAS [the Department of Agriculture's Economic Analysis Staff] saying there are only 129,000 hectares of coca plantations in the country. We asked the Interior Ministry's Drug Control Executive Office to provide official figures but officials there said they do not have any official figures.

[EL COMERCIO] Do you mean the government does not know the number of hectares covered with coca plantations?

[Castro] We do not have a national authority capable of saying—with arguments and figures—how many hectares of coca plantations we have in the country. This is

why we cannot evaluate or make commitments with respect to a reduction in coca plantations or drug production.

[EL COMERCIO] Why is this so?

[Castro] We do not have a single authority centralizing the fight on drug trafficking. The Autonomous Authority for Alternative Development that the government created in 1990 only exists on paper. In 1991 the government issued another legislative decree creating the Alternative Development Institute, but the institute never started operating.

[EL COMERCIO] Is this situation inhibiting the United States from sending real aid?

[Castro] I think we are transmitting the impression that the government does not have a clear and firm political commitment to fight drug trafficking. The solution to the drug trafficking problem is being delayed and international organizations, particularly the United States, look at the situation with a lot of skepticism.

OAS Human Rights Commission Begins Visit

PA1805040393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH] began its activities in Peru with a number of meetings with Peruvian officials. Beginning its official visit at the invitation of the Peruvian Government, the representatives of the CIDH met with Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente at the Foreign Ministry to coordinate the meetings it will hold in the next few days to observe the human rights situation. The commission is chaired by Oscar Lujan, who is accompanied by seven of its members. It plans to meet with representatives of Congress, the Catholic Church, and the media, among other sectors. Although the commission members refrained from issuing statements to the media, it has been learned that the cases of the students of La Cantuta University and journalist Danilo Quijano will be of great interest to the commission.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] So far this year, 26 accusations have been filed. Of these, 19 are being investigated that do not deal with an open violation of human rights. These accusations are being investigated. This is quite a big decrease from the 520 accusations filed last year. [end recording]

On the afternoon of 17 May, the Supreme Military Justice Council briefed the CIDH members on the legal proceedings in military courts against terrorists arrested in recent days and the situation of those given life sentences. The CIDH members headed by Argentine Oscar Lujan also met with Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva in whose office they watched a video on subversive attacks and the casualties and damage they caused in 1992.

[Begin recording] [Lujan] I cannot make an evaluation right now. This is just the first day and the second meeting we have held. It is too premature to make an evaluation.

[Unidentified Reporter] There was a compulsory strike on 17 May [words indistinct]?

[Lujan] Yes, I know there was. I am right here and I am not a Peruvian. I am here despite the strike and I want to stay.

[Reporter] Have you discussed specific topics such as the individuals who disappeared from La Cantuta?

[Lujan] In general.

[Reporter] What do you think of the video you were shown?

[Lujan] We have seen it.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]?

[Lujan] All the information. [end recording]

De la Puente Discusses Human Rights Issue

PA1605014993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 15 May 93

["Saturday's Topics" program with host Dennis Vargas; Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente; Jorge Gonzalez Izquierdo, dean of the Economists College and dean of the Pacifico University Economy Faculty; Luis Pasara, CARETAS magazine columnist and international reporter stationed in Buenos Aires; and Laura Puertas, journalist and member of the Andean Legal Experts Commission]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pasara] I would like to discuss the topic of human rights, which affects Peru's image abroad. As you know, I live abroad and I am particularly sensitive to the matter. This topic does not just interest the government; it interests all Peruvians. I get the impression that government spokesmen too easily regard Peru's bad image abroad as the product of the actions of those they describe as bad Peruvians. This is an unpleasant term because it is reminiscent of the dictatorial language used several times in the past in Peru. At the same time, there is no sufficient critical awareness or reflection on the way the government contributes to this so-called bad image of Peru abroad. There are some developments that are regarded with tremendous concern and suspicion abroad.

I am going to refer to two of these developments. One has to do with the human rights violations that are not punished or are mildly punished, as only two top officers have been punished for human rights violations in the 10 or 11 years the Armed Forces have been involved in the struggle against subversion. Some cases are not investigated fully or the investigation is clearly unsatisfactory. No final reports have been issued on human rights

complaints that were filed many years ago. I feel the entire matter is very serious and undermines the credibility of Peru and the Peruvian Government. One gets the painful impression that action is taken only when pressure is applied from abroad, particularly by the U.S. Government.

The second topic I would like to discuss, which I feel is of the greatest concern for the image of Peru abroad, is the deterioration of the Army. I feel this is part of a larger deterioration of the institutions in the country. One officer was sanctioned, for example, under unclear criteria by the Executive. It seems to me the institutional problem involving General Robles is clearly not the only problem. A number of officers have been discharged, sent abroad, tried, and so forth. This reflects an uncertain situation. I mean, even a foreign observer with the best intentions must regard with concern and uneasiness the possibility of instability in the Peruvian Government. Is the government aware that its own actions decisively contribute to the so-called bad image of Peru?

[De la Puente] I would draw a line covering the 10- or 11-year period that you mentioned and would draw segments on that line to try to focus, not just on levels of responsibility, which is easy, but on government actions aimed at restoring or overcoming one of the most sensitive topics in the handling of Peru's image, or topics damaging that image, such as human rights. There was inertia in the early 1980's and then came a torrent when the Shining Path began moving into the cities.

Then, on 12 September, the Shining Path chief was captured and we began actions to bring the chief leaders of the terrorist Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement to justice.

Until the decision was made to face terrorism, the circumstances or conditions that the climate of terror and [word indistinct] imposed on the country's political and social atmosphere were met with total passivity. From the moment the decision was made to face terrorism, we successfully went from passivity to action, from total incompetency to efficiency. We began at that time to give formal treatment to the handling of human rights. Before the government made the decision to face terrorism, the situation was chaotic. From the moment we established a hierarchical structure of the process to face terrorism, the president, the government, the National Intelligence Service [SIN], and the organization of the state fought to defend themselves from destruction and took the helm to face this problem, which, as I said, undermined and imperiled the stability of the country.

[Pasara] You mentioned the SIN, but not the police.

[De la Puente] I have talked of the SIN, of intelligence, of the system, the helm of the government. For that reason, we are facing an unquestionable reality. From the moment the government, with its president at the helm, decided to face terrorism, we went from passivity to action. What happened then? The Shining Path leaders were captured without bloodshed. The Armed Forces and the police do not use violence to fight terrorism; instead a successful process of intelligent and patient work is used under the leadership of the president. It is evident the work is successful. What happened after the change took place in the people's attitude and in the way of thinking that this country can be governed?

This is a topic that cannot be questioned or refuted, because it is a reality. Before that time, there was not even a decision to act, and, of course, anything could happen. Let us try to find our place in that segment of the line, and let us not be dragged down by the inertia of that entire decade in which nothing was done until the decision to act was made. Let us try to be fair and realize the government decided to establish a mechanism to respect human rights, even while we were facing the most terrifyingly insane movement on the planet. We cannot doubt this was handled with prudence, total respect for human rights, and in the balance this is an extremely positive asset.

The inertia mentioned before makes us view Peru as a repeated human rights violator, leads to cases of missing people and tortures, and this liability is included on the list of the advances that were made. I sincerely believe, however, we must be much more objective in our analysis and not hold the government responsible, which is why I said it was easy to affix responsibility, for something it did not do or failed to do when it decided to act.

In this case, and pardon me Dennis, but I want to complete the idea, you talked of deterioration of the institutions. What existed was a deterioration of the country. We restored the country when the government decided to face the element that was destroying and undermining civilized life in Peru. Henceforth, a self-propelled mechanism to respect human rights was put to work. We have fully abided by the commitment the foreign minister made at the 49th session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

One of the points that was questioned was that the government refused to allow prison visits by International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] delegates.

These delegates are now able to carry out those visits according to a procedure established between the Government of Peru and the ICRC, without objections—even without interfering with the information the ICRC will give. The National Human Rights Coordinating Board, which has maintained a permanent monologue with the government, is now able to participate in a dialogue with the justice minister, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, the attorney general, and all the other people—including the interior minister—who deal with these issues. There is now a dialogue, rather than a monologue.

A very important delegation from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IAHRC] is now visiting Peru. This was another issue, meaning the claim that Peru systematically refused to receive the IAHRC because its opinion may be biased. Gentlemen, this week

the IAHRC delegation will visit prisons; establish the mechanisms to supervise the status of prisoners' rights; and, in sum, anything else the commission members may consider important.

The UN human rights rapporteur for cases of missing people and tortures will also visit Lima. Peru issued an invitation to the organizations and agencies that represent all international institutions for the protection and supervision of human rights, and they are now able to visit Lima, something that was not possible in the past. This does not mean a radical, total change has occurred and that there are no more human rights violations. The inertia has been curbed at a time when the 1980's attitude prevailed over the possibility of adopting a decision. When the government adopted a firm decision that inertia began to decrease, and it became a salvage operation and civility operation.

[Puertas] Do you believe human rights were violated in the cases of La Cantuta and Barrios Altos?

[De la Puente] The investigation of the cases you mention has not been completed. Consequently, we cannot give our opinion on the existence or nonexistence of human rights violations because the responsibility of those who may have participated in these incidents has yet to be established.

[Puertas] How can it be established if they have not given their testimony at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]?

[De la Puente] The debate has not been concluded. The issue will be discussed after 19 May. The CCD has yet to agree on the visit of certain CCD representatives with those who have reported possible human rights violations. Let us not forget that international procedures exist. We cannot organize a trip for every report—so five, six, or 10 CCD members may travel to investigate every report—when a Foreign Ministry exists and when a procedure to examine witnesses exists through which Argentine authorities can tremendously facilitate access to information based on a list of questions that may be answered by Mr. (Gen. Rodolfo] Robles, who voluntarily decided to leave the country. The Supreme Council of Military Justice has every right....

[Pasara, interrupting] The Barrios Altos case does not only involve the decision to travel abroad. How much time is needed for the investigation to be completed?

[De la Puente] It is necessary to determine if another CCD commission is necessary. For God's sake, how can we solve things if we cannot reach an agreement on what must be done for this country; if every time we outline a solution for the country's development we have to mention past events and pending topics that only serve to distort the country's reality? We will work to settle those issues, but let us not limit our development. We discuss the La Cantuta and the Barrios Altos cases every day, but we do not even dedicate half a minute to Peru's return to the international financial community.

[Vargas] Dr. De la Puente, one single question to end this topic: Do you consider the return of Gen. Robles essential, as he has become a key witness after his accusations? Could [words indistinct] only in Buenos Aires?

[De la Puente] Gen. Robles left the country under two conditions: One, he did it voluntarily; and two, he is absolutely free to enter and leave the country. Therefore, if Mr. Robles is firmly determined to support the charges he has made—charges that are critical for Peru's image—and if he wants to adequately support them in Peru, he may come when he wants. [passage omitted]

Constituent Congress Approves 1992 Agreements With Bolivia

PA1305195293 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The Constituent Congress has approved the international agreements signed by the Peruvian and Bolivian Governments on 24 January 1992. They include the Gran Mariscal de Santa Cruz Binational Project of Friendship, Cooperation, and Integration and the agreement on the participation of Bolivian enterprises in the Ilo industrial free zone. They also include the agreements on Bolivian participation in the Playa Bolivia Mar tourist free zone and on facilities for the transit of people between the territories of the two countries.

Fishermen Chain Themselves to Mexican Embassy Fence

PA1405124393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Three workers of the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency [Pescaperu] have chained themselves to the Mexican Embassy fence in hopes that this diplomatic mission will focus the attention of President of the Council of Ministers Oscar de la Puente on their dismissed fellow workers.

At noon [1700 GMT] on 13 May, 30 Pescaperu workers peacefully gathered at the garden of the Mexican Embassy, on Santa Cruz Avenue, and three of them chained themselves to the fence on the perimeter of the embassy grounds. They are demanding to speak with the president of the Council of Ministers to urge him to rehire 1,600 workers who have been dismissed and not to privatize that enterprise. According to the workers' leader, they found themselves forced to adopt this measure because for the past six months they have been requesting a meeting and nothing has happened.

[Unidentified worker recording] We are going to stay here until someone from the government agrees to meet with us. They have to receive us. At the national level we are 1,600 strong and at this moment there are 700 workers in Lima. We are not going to leave until we find a solution to the problem. [end recording]

On a special request from the Mexican Embassy, the police remain on alert a half-a-block away from the embassy, preventing vehicle traffic from traveling on that avenue.

Shining Path Attacks Leave Arequipa, Tacna Without Power

PA1705203593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Lima, 17 May (AFP)—Three important cities and smaller areas of southern Peru have been in the dark since the night of 16 May, after Shining Path guerrillas staged a dynamite attack on a high-tension tower at the Charcani Hydroelectric Plant in Arequipa, it was reported officially on 17 May.

The police reported that a dynamite charge planted near a side door of La Victoria market exploded on 17 May, causing damage but no casualties.

According to the state news agency ANDINA, the destruction of the high-tension tower left in the dark the cities of Arequipa and Tacna, 1000 and 1300 km south of Lima; Puno, 1800 km southeast of Lima; and other neighboring areas.

Police claimed they found two unexploded dynamite charges and a red flag with the Shining Path hammer and sickle at the site. On 17 May the guerrilla organization commemorates the 13th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle in Ayacucho, in the southeast Andes, with a 72-hour armed strike in Lima.

Officials of the Southwest Electricity Company, which is in charge of the Charcani plant, said that service is gradually being restored.

* Reasons for APRA Leader's Resignation Noted

93SM0232B Lima SI in Spanish 29 Mar 93 pp 18-19

[Text] Thursday noon, the Salon de las Americas in the Casa del Pueblo was filled with newsmen, most of them young, very few of whom were probably able to appreciate the historical parallel that Armando Villanueva traced when he announced the formation of a temporary general secretariat to head APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. Villanueva alluded to the time when, as it went underground under the dictatorship of [Manuel] Odria [1950-56], APRA set up an action commando made up of *Zapaton* himself, Luis Felipe de las Casas, and Luis Negreiros Vega, who was murdered shortly thereafter by the hired killers of the tyranny as he was doing his duty.

What was striking this time was that the provisional directorate was not being set up to face a situation of illegality or simply fight foreign enemies, but rather, to confront a serious internal crisis underscored by a factional struggle.

The most acute symptom of the crisis was the resignation of Mercedes Cabanillas as the party's general undersecretary. The wording of her letter to APRA's National Executive Committee (CEN) leaves not the slightest shred of doubt: "profound disagreements on specific issues such as the unpostponable Platform Meeting, reorganization of CEN, and the reinscription of the rank and file now make my resignation from the post and its duties unavoidable."

Nor was this the first letter of resignation from the post that the former senator had formulated. She had adopted a similar attitude previously, on 24 November 1992. On that occasion, she mentioned elements of the antagonism of which she was the victim. In her letter, she cited the need for Aprists to renew their platform, based on "recognition of the role of the market," the fact of the crisis of socialism, the need to modernize the thought of Haya de la Torre concerning the need for foreign investment, and a strategy for facing "dogmatic neoliberalism."

In her initial resignation, she referred to the new members of the National Executive Committee, "made up of young people with modern ideas" who were to be credited with the fight for moralization. To a large extent, it was apparently those young people who, by forming an alliance with the old guard, finally forced her to leave her post. She has turned out to be the main victim of the various struggles and diverse manifestations of personal ambition, at least so far.

The procession was an internal one. The first uneasiness occurred previous to the 5 April coup, just after the 18th APRA Congress held in Trujillo in February 1992. On that occasion, it will be recalled, Luis Alva Castro was defeated by Alan Garcia in the fight for the office of general secretary.

Various forces then began to line up, some spontaneously and others deliberately. The persistent Alva Castro-Alan Garcia opposition was joined by others who were invisible from the outside of Aprism, but powerful on the inside.

One of the factors involved in the fight was the so-called New Majority group, made up of elements of no particular ideopolitical identification, which succeeded in Trujillo in prevailing over the shouts for moralization and which, in the wave of agreements, stood out as the one stipulating that no former deputy should occupy a post of leadership in the party. In so doing, they ruled out all leaders except for Garcia. APRA's municipal defeat thus intoned its spirit of destructive criticism even more and Mercedes Cabanillas, along with Jorge del Castillo, became the target of their ire.

Seeing this atmosphere of discord, Jose Barsallo, former Aprista minister of interior, began to propose the creation of a "shadow leadership" that would make major political decisions. Several meetings were held, but the idea did not prosper. On 26 February, using the first

anniversary of the National Executive Committee (dominated numerically by the New Majority) as a pretext, a great festival of unity was held at the Sachun folk festival. On that occasion, Mercedes Cabanillas appeared to have been absolved by her critics.

Only days before, at the Brotherhood meeting held on 19 February, Alva Castro had told the New Majority sector, which is involved in a fight with Meche, that:

"This event is far bigger than it was last year!"

It was a way to criticize the 1992 meeting over which Garcia had presided. It may also have been a step forward in the search for unity against the former senator.

Alva Castro wanted more than a defeat; he was after complete vindication, meaning the presidential candidacy in 1995 (or before). In that context, his discontent coincided with the mood of the New Majority, which was guided by issues that were more organizational and pragmatic than they were ideological or political. Rullman Flores, Jensen Carranza, and Carlos Pacheco Giron, three of the most representative members of the sector, blamed Cabanillas for not wanting to take on the office of general secretary in Garcia's absence and for placing the entire municipal campaign in Del Castillo's hands.

Del Castillo is criticized in particular for an internal provision providing that Aprista mayoral candidates were free to choose members from their lists. For the New Majority, this went against the party, a reproach, it should be recalled, similar to the one expressed in the cry of the audience as a whole at the 1992 Aprista Congress and before: "Friends, out!"

One surprising aspect of the internal struggle raging in Apra was that the attack on Cabanillas developed while she was ill from an accident and even absent, when she was forced to undergo surgery in Caracas. Some reports even indicate that she encountered serious material obstacles to performing her duties.

Whatever the case, the fact is that there is now a superdirectorate that does not exclude the National Executive Committee or the Political Committee, but that relegates both to a secondary level.

Armando Villanueva reported at a press conference that during the military occupation of Aprista headquarters following the 5 April crackdown, 17,000 membership cards, 12,000 registration cards, and the membership rolls had been lost. He added that the registration of new members had therefore been suspended in order to prevent infiltration. Villanueva claimed that his party is the victim of an anti-Aprista campaign that "we know will flounder."

Over the next two months, the provisional general secretariat must call a national plenary session that will have to settle the problem of the office of general secretary and of party leadership in general. The plenary meeting may also call a special congress. In the meantime, one can say that the ratio of forces on the provisional board favors Villanueva. Only two of the eight members are Alvistas: Luis Alva and Rodolfo Boldi Burga. Luis Heysen, an Alvist who ran for the board, was defeated. All signs indicate that the next two months will be a very intense testing period in the heat of a crisis that apparently cannot be solved by mere organizational measures, but that requires a wide-ranging process of ideas, self-criticism, and cleansing.

* Report Explains Fujimori's 'Solid' Popularity

93SM0232A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 18 Mar 93 pp 12-15

[Text] It was as if Lady Luck herself had placed a bet on Sunday, the 14th, at the Great Latin American Stakes.

The Peruvian chestnut "Stash" led from pole to pole, and the 25,000 spectators filling the Monterrico hippodrome gave a resounding ovation, not just to the horse and jockey Edwin Talaverano, but to engineer-emperor Alberto Fujimori as well.

Such a victory at the track would have added the finishing touch to those mythical political promotional stratagems attributed to psychiatrist Segisfredo Luza. Like the weeping virgins, it would have been aimed at emphasizing the chief of state's reputation as a miracle worker and at reaping a victory on the feet of another. As they say in Italy, "Even if it is not true, it is a good idea!"

On this occasion, however, Fujimori received a warm ovation from the entire hippodrome before the race and he personally bet on Moradazo, who came in fifth.

Solid Popularity

The plain fact is that in this 33d month of his regime, Fujimori is enjoying solid popularity. In February 1988, Alan Garcia Perez's popularity rating had already dropped from over 90 percent to under 40. In 1983, Fernando Belaunde Terry's popularity had also declined, with the economy in a depressed state due to that year's fierce "Nino."

Fujimori's acceptance curve is atypical and contradicts the extreme current economic scarcities. It started at 38 percent in August 1990, rose above 80 percent in April 1992 when he suspended the Constitution (to the country's civic shame), following which, most polls say, it has stayed at over 60 percent.

Apoyo put it at 62 percent in February and 61 percent now [March].

No one could ride on Fujimori's shirttails in the municipal elections of January, but he is still strong. Furthermore, any fool now knows not to question the polls.

How does this president, whose legitimacy is dubious, sustain the momentum of his popularity? What is the secret of his success? In short, how does he get it to work?

These questions are repeated by many so-called "traditional" politicians. When they are all alone in a room, they think they may have a few lessons to learn from the "nonpolitician" of the "no-shock."

Fujimori's popularity also intrigues a number of foreign journalists visiting the country, and who often interview the president without being particularly impressed.

A few, like John Simpson of the BBC of London, who spent an entire month here in 1992, talked with Fujimori early in his visit and gradually turned hostile as he saw inaccuracies.

Others, like Maurizio Chierici of the CORRIERE DELLA SERA, are disturbed by the sovereign style and negative generalizations about political parties. Chierici recently published an interview titled "I, Despot, for Peru's Own Good."

Local journalists like Manuel d'Ornellas and Jaime de Althaus of EXPRESO, who have fallen under the spell of "El Chinito," grow desperate over what they deem to be an unjust attack by the international press. They often blame Peruvians such as Mario Vargas Llosa, Gustavo Gorriti, and Alberto Borea, who criticize the regime abroad, and ask the government to do its utmost to bring in foreign editors so that they may see the facts for themselves, without any middlemen.

The foreign press is here permanently, however, and not only through news agencies like AP, ANSA, EFE, REUTERS, UPI, and Novosti, but with resident reporters and special correspondents. This month, for example, South American correspondents from "Christian Science Radio," U.S. NEWS, and THE WASHINGTON POST have been in Lima.

Through SIN [National Intelligence Service], the government has tried to contract for the services of the agencies, in some cases paying in advance more than is usually paid and asking to be connected not just with the Telex service, but also with dispatch traffic sent abroad. Let it be noted that there were no takers and a controversy has arisen with the EFE concerning a cable containing references made by Fujimori to the debt to Japan.

The Foreign Ministry has also invited four Colombian journalists for the somewhat equivocal purpose of winning special sympathies. It is bound to suffer disappointments by following such a path.

The simple fact is that, because of its intensity and certain emotional "buttons" relating to the current situation in Peru, the psychopolitical strategy being followed by the government functions much better domestically than it does when projected abroad.

"Putting the Spin on the News"

Fujimori has intuitively (and without Luza's help) discovered how to slant the news and give it a certain "bias"—what in American specialized jargon is called "putting the spin on the news," in short, getting the top to spin in the direction one wants.

"El Chino" has turned into the first local "spin doctor," i.e., the main interpreter and slanter of news.

In the United States, every political party has its own spin doctors who, at the end of a televised debate, for example, soon come on to tell the public who actually won.

In this country, shortly after Ricardo Belmont's reelection to the mayoral post of Lima, Fujimori explained that he had withdrawn the name of his own favorite, Pablo Gutierrez de Barranco, and thus claimed credit for the victory of the Colorado [Belmont].

He repeats this scenario almost weekly. On some Saturdays, he goes on radio programs in the morning for an interview that is then repeated on Channel Five at night, and he repeats the process on Sundays on one or more channels. The panels that conduct these interviews are quite kind (no CARETAS reporter may be on them) and interviewers rarely go for the jugular. This is understandable, not only because of the respect which the chief of state inspires, but also due to the complacent attitude adopted by most channels since 5 April!

Later, on Sunday and Monday, most of Lima's dailies put together their front pages by repeating what Fujimori said on TV or the radio the previous day, thereby rehashing and tacitly reconfirming his messages.

Fujimori does have a special talent for putting out suggestive stories, speaking on key issues, and "making news." He has a good set of antennas for such things. Many more seasoned politicians wish they had the same skill. And he is never boring.

"Fujimori confirms: Mezzich is fenced in!" "Fujimori says 'No!' to lowering chicken prices." "Bribes were paid on the debt, Fujimori reports." "I will not give amnesty to those who stage coups: Fujimori." "Fujimori connects Salinas Sedo with embezzlement in the Navy."

Not all of this news is true and some stories are speculative, if not slanderous, but they fulfill the goal of sustaining the offensive.

Fujimori has also developed an effective television style. Unlike his oratory, which is shouting and strident, he speaks informally on television, in a confidential, reasoned tone.

Not only does he compensate, but exploits a limited, "folksy" type of language. "What I say may not be pretty," he says, "but I am honest." Ergo, be careful with eloquent politicians. So that when "El Chino" exclaims, "What a people!" he convinces many.

Furthermore, history shows that the people also want changes in the presidential lexicon. It is as if they tired of one type of actor and were looking for another. Velasco's hoarse, bronchial glibness successfully replaced

Belaunde's historical, geographical lyricism for a time; now the expressions of a Japanese president are being superimposed on the intense grandiloquence of Garcia.

Finally, Fujimori knows how to exploit both the prestige of his Japanese ancestry as well as the shrewdness of a native son of the Barrios Altos. Consequently, the fact that he is occasionally guilty of a coarse lie (such as the "no-shock" of his election campaign and the violation of his Constitutional oath) is not viewed as a mortal sin.

"His style has a certain something," says a colleague, "and is showy to boot, with that scenario of his."

Fujimori is also lucky, as was grandiosely shown when the police, which he had denigrated since 1990, gave him his most resounding psychological victory by capturing Abimael Guzman.

The impression he creates is, therefore, that, unlike our usual all-star teams which play very prettily but score no goals, he may be no [Hans] Bekenbauer, but is always around the goal.

"He is clever rather than lucky," the colleague adds.

Initial Advantages

Naturally enough, however, Fujimori's current success is not only explained by the way he slants the news and the tools he uses, but rather, the political and psychological ambiance in which he does his news spinning.

CARETAS has put together the following framework of favorable conditions:

After a period of hyperinflation, the people accept many sacrifices for the sake of greater stability. Hyperinflation can bury the person who set it off and burden the one who masters it. The final months of Alan Garcia (30, 40, and 50 percent inflation) may have dug a hole that APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] may never be able to work its way out of. Reducing inflation is the basis of Fujimori's credibility.

As Elias Canetti points out in "The Masses and Government" ["Las Masses y el Poder"], the profound uncertainties of hyperinflation can generate a trend toward authoritarianism. This occurred in Germany during the final years of the Weimar Republic (1919-33) and led to the catastrophe of Naziism (which was definitely wildly popular at the time). It also happened in Japan in 1931 at the close of a constitutional decade governed by the Seyukai and Minseito Parties. The Great Depression in 1929 eroded their prestige, paving the way for expansionist militarism. In 1940, the parties eventually embarked upon "voluntary dissolution" in order to join together in what was called the Association of Assistance to the Imperial Regime. The plan ended in the war defeat.

There is so much awareness in Germany of the need to maintain the vitality of democratic parties that the Federal Government finances the activities of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert and Friedrich Naumann Foundations, which cultivate the tendencies of the Christian Democratic, Socialist, and Liberal Parties. This activity has become all the more vital with the emergence of neo-Nazi groups.

It is from this standpoint that one can interpret Germany's parliamentary resistance to Fujimori's continued justification of the 5 April crackdown and denigration of what he calls "partidocracy."

In Peru, in contrast, most people now seem to favor a "law-and-order" party even if it does trample certain democratic principles.

Fear of a vacuum also strengthens the regime. The recent elections show that the parties are not currently recognized as viable alternatives. Only Ricardo Belmont is strong (at 64 percent, he even beats Fujimori's popularity rating, Apoyo says), but his Obras [Independent Obras Movement] movement is not organized and cannot even run candidates in districts that it has hypothetically won.

Last week, contacts between business groups and the government were stepped up. The economic situation is dramatic for most members of COFIDE [Financial Development Corporation], ADEX [Exporters Association], and the SNI [National Industries Association], but much of what they have asked for: reduction of the IGV [General Sales Tax] from 18 to five percent and a 30-percent devaluation of the sol, seems impossible and substantial disagreement with the government is reported. Nevertheless, fear of a vacuum prevails, as do the areas on which they agree: privatization and the neoliberal surge; the labor policy, which reduces stability; and open or concealed admiration for Pinochet's Chile.

Furthermore, Fujimori understands that the people not only want moralizing, but a circus to go with it, and periodically lops off the heads of the police, Apristas [APRA members], diplomats, military officials, and so on.

The advantage of a neoliberal government is that it has absolutely nothing to do with a number of sectors, as a result of which the people stop blaming it in these areas. In addition, the lower rate of inflation seems to make up for sacrifices required by reorganization. In 1989, for example, Bolivian Minister of Economy Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada nearly won the presidential elections.

Opposite Direction

Substantial aspects of the Peruvian and Latin American neoliberal tendency now seem to be moving in precisely the opposite direction of what is happening in the United States following Bill Clinton's inauguration, but for the time being, the phenomenon of the majority hope runs in that direction.

Now that the new Apoyo Group agrees—which must have happened with great foot-dragging and more than one limitation—"spin doctor" Fujimori will once again resort to his news strategy and continue to present the news as his own triumph.

Under the circumstances, one can only hope that as the restoration of democracy in the country moves ahead, that illusion will be justified.

*** Decreased Political Violence in Mantaro Assessed**

93WR0222Z Lima IDEELE in Spanish Mar 93 pp 34-38

[Article by Isaias Rojas: "Has Peace Arrived in the Mantaro?"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The Mantaro Valley is part of one of the strategic areas of Peru. It is the principal source of food for Lima. Key communications routes and the principal networks of the electricity distribution system pass through it, and in the hills above it mining activity goes on. It is an important source of national income. Because of these characteristics subversive movements have regarded this region as an area to develop their strategy. As a result, over the past few years, it has been the scene of an undeclared war which has paid no attention to either humanitarian or legal considerations of any kind. At present a combination of factors apparently has reduced the activities of subversive groups, and particularly the Shining Path movement. However, nothing indicates that the battle of the Mantaro Valley is now completely over.

The most apparent signs of political violence can be seen as you enter the city of Huancayo over the tracks running along both banks of the Mantaro River. A large number of political slogans have been painted on every possible wall. These signs compete for space with the signs of candidates in the recent municipal elections. They consist of slogans, watchwords, and subversive threats. However, curiously enough, as soon as they were painted over by the Army, and to show how old they were, other signs were painted over them, calling for "armed strikes," some of them on 15 May and others on 24 and 25 July.

When you enter Huancayo, one of the first comments which you hear people make is: "The situation has calmed down." Such comments have a basis in fact. They recall the difficult periods of violence through which these people lived during the "armed strikes" in May and July, when the area was almost completely paralyzed by fear, thus expressing the high level of intimidation that the subversives had achieved. The comments also recall the wave of disappearances that shook the city during the second half of 1992.

Coinciding with the latter phenomenon and the capture of Abimael Guzman, the activity of Shining Path, the principal source of violence in the area, apparently began to decline. That change can be seen by comparing periods of six months. Between May and August 1992 there were 143 attacks and 197 people killed. Between September 1992 and February 1993 there were 73 attacks and 90 persons killed.

A qualitative indicator was seen in the last municipal elections. Contrary to what was expected, the elections took place normally. As in other areas of the country, a large number of electoral lists competed in the elections. On the other hand, the Shining Path movement made practically no effort against the elections throughout the valley. Barely four charges of dynamite were exploded, apparently as isolated and spontaneous acts by some subversive group that wanted to prove that it was still there. There were no flying squads of subversives and no sign painting or any other kind of propaganda.

However, how could it be that an area where, until a short time ago, there had been so much violence, could have calmed down so quickly? Does this mean that the Shining Path movement has disappeared from the region? In effect, is the region now pacified? Is this a situation which, seen in perspective, is moving toward a consolidation of government authority? A closer look will show more complex elements than those which appear at first sight.

"Dirty War" in the City

In view of its failure in the countryside, particularly in the more mountainous areas of the Mantaro Valley, from which it was expelled by civil defense patrols, the Shining Path movement redeployed back into the city of Huancayo, making this city the center of its activity, from which it organized its war strategy for the entire region. In that process it concentrated its work on the University of Huancayo, apparently intending to turn the field of higher education into the spearhead of its activity.

Certainly, the subversive groups had paid attention to the universities from the beginning of the war and moved into them to challenge the authorities for political control. The democratic forces drew back in view of the growing use of violence by the armed, subversive groups, so that for a time only those groups were still on the scene. During the past few years the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] withdrew from the scene, and it was the Shining Path movement which took over the political arena. With the opposition to it under control, Shining Path began to work freely, recruiting new members and planning its activities. In the view of observers in the area, the Shining Path movement succeeded in gaining control of some officials in the university administration. In its effort to take over control the Shining Path movement was not distracted by considerations of any kind in killing its opponents, whether they were teachers or students.

In the view of the Shining Path movement the universities not only were attractive because they were a potential breeding ground for recruits, but also because they made it possible to penetrate other social groups because

of the family origins of the majority of students and because of their capacity for projecting social influence. In this way the students could reach outlying areas, markets, the informal [illegal] sector of the economy, institutes of higher education, and also lead in the attempt to return to the countryside.

The response of the government to this challenge has been fundamentally military. Since the Political and Military Command took charge of the campaign, raids, searches, and occupations of university premises have occurred frequently. At the same time cases involving the disappearance of people associated with the universities were recorded. People in Huancayo still remember the kidnapping and subsequent murder of an academic vice rector by unknown persons some years ago.

During the period when General Perez Documet was in command, and in accordance with government policy, the military took over the university campus on 9 July 1991. Since then there has been a military base there that has been responsible for checking on the movements of university personnel and students.

In the months following the establishment of the military base the Shining Path movement succeeded in maintaining a semiclandestine level of activity. Several times Shining Path guerrillas attacked soldiers who were guarding university installations. One of those attacks took place on 7 July 1992, when the guerrillas killed a soldier and wounded another one at the gates of the university. In response to this attack the military carried out a raid and a compulsory census of the students on 7 August 1992. According to regional observers, the wave of student disappearances began after that. The Office of the Prosecutor for Human Rights recorded 22 complaints of disappearances, while other sources, such as the police, spoke of 31 cases. Still other groups said that the total involved 35 cases.

After these events the Shining Path movement, as it were, practically abandoned any further activity. Apparently, it withdrew from the scene, while military control of the area became tighter. At present entry into the university campus is tightly controlled. The students form lines at the principal gate, where they are carefully checked by soldiers. A few meters away other soldiers, their weapons at the ready, closely watch all detail movements at the entrance to the university.

The university has been completely repainted. There are no subversive slogans on the walls, and no leaflets or propaganda of any kind have been distributed, as used to be done previously. However, those who are familiar with the university scene state that the Shining Path movement still has a certain, hidden presence.

The above process, described very briefly, has provided a basis for analysts of the area to say that there are at least two reasons for the decline in Shining Path activity in the Mantaro River Valley. In the first place, there is the pressure and control exercised by the Army over the university, which has made it possible to close off the principal area where the Shining Path movement operated and organized in the region. In the second place, there has been the wave of disappearances and executions that seems to have affected its intermediate level and organic structure, weakening its channels of communication and coordination with other areas.

Furthermore, in that context there was the capture of Abimael Guzman, as well as some of his top leaders. This development led not only to demoralization in the ranks of the Shining Path movement but also deprived them of orders on how to deal with the military offensive.

Residential Areas and Other Sectors

With the closure of the university to Shining Path activity the view has been expressed that the guerrilla movement was going to change the direction of its efforts, placing greater emphasis on areas such as residential neighborhoods, markets, and informal [illegal] stores that had previously been "worked over" by Shining Path. There is no specific evidence that this is happening. On the contrary, it seems to be true that the informal sector is also one of the areas where Shining Path has been hurt.

There are reports that the work of Shining Path in the informal sector took place some time ago and was linked to efforts made at the university, in the sense that many students needed to work as street peddlers to support themselves. It is said that for some time the students associated with Shining Path controlled at least one area in the merchant movement, in which they "legitimized" themselves by carrying out tasks involving "cleansing society" of common criminals. They also withdrew from this kind of activity but left some members behind to form centers for the future. There are reports stating that the eight street vendors who were arrested on 14 October 1992 and were executed in the Sincos area by gunshots in the head, might have had some connection with Shining Path.

In the residential areas the presence of Shining Path has also declined significantly. With the exception of a few neighborhoods, such as San Pedro de Sanos, Juan Parra del Riego, and La Esperanza, where there is some, dwindling presence, there is no Shining Path activity in other residential areas. At one time there was a dispute between the Shining Path movement and the MRTA in the neighborhood area called "Justicia, Paz, y Vida" ["Justice, Peace, and Life"]. However, the subversives never held an important position. Over the past few months there has been no information on activity by either of the two groups.

During the first few days of January 1993 there was a rumor in some outlying urban areas about the presence of a detachment of men who apparently came from the Alto Huallaga Valley. Reports stated that small groups of these men have visited mothers' clubs to ask them to work in a coordinated way and not to steal any goods. They reportedly told them that they could continue

working and that the men would be watching what they did on a continuing basis. At that time it was also rumored that a Shining Path meeting was being prepared, probably national in scope, somewhere in the city of Huancayo. On the other hand, other versions of the same report state that Shining Path officials and leaders who had previously left the area are now returning and that they are trying to resume contact with the remaining basic cells.

As in Lima, Army activity in outlying residential areas basically consists of conducting security sweeps and carrying on civic action programs. One of the most recent civic action campaigns took place in the residential neighborhood of Justicia, Paz, y Vida about two weeks before the municipal elections. In general, owing to the fact that the population blames the disappearances of people on the military, there is fear and a lack of confidence that cannot be broken by civic action campaigns, which are well received but which are insufficient in numb...

In some cases the military were unsuccessful when they called on the people to organize urban security patrols. Squatter settlements have no political leaders to guide them, due to the activity of the Shining Path movement. Local, functional committees, such as those which handle the distribution of water and electricity and take care of other services, do not want to become involved in providing political leadership.

Battle for the Surrounding Mountains

Although the Shining Path movement has succeeded in maintaining a certain level of presence, even though it has been seriously damaged, it has lost out almost completely in the Mantaro Valley area. The organization of civil defense patrols has been the key to this situation.

The civil defense patrols, which are farmers' organizations, were organized for the first time toward the end of 1989 in Chaquicocha, in the Alto Cunas mountains. Subsequently, they were set up in areas such as Comas, in the mountains around the Tulumayo Valley, in Canipaco, and in Pariahuanca. Basically, they were set up in accordance with the countersubversive strategy followed by the government. However, they succeeded in developing because the people of the countryside were tired of the abuses and outrages committed by Shining Path subversive groups. These groups not only murdered the authorities of the towns and attacked their productive facilities but also forced the people to produce for their consumption, preventing access to the markets. The Shining Path organization regarded this kind of organization as an alternative way of providing for their own subsistence.

In the months immediately following the emergence of the civil defense patrols there were several clashes with the remnants of Shining Path units which were fighting to reestablish their presence. On 13 February 1990 members of the civil defense patrol of Andamarca, in the Township of Concepcion, killed seven Shining Path members. During the first few days of March 1990 patrol members from Comas and Chaquicocha beheaded nine Shining Path members and brought their heads to their judicial authorities. Also displaying the same kind of violence, members of the civil defense patrols, supported by the Army, drove the Shining Path movement out of their territory.

In the following years the neighborhood patrol organization was consolidated and legitimized and began to challenge the authority of local government.

In some cases, where the area in which community authority is exercised coincides with the authority of municipal administrations, these contradictions have become complicated, since there are three, parallel structures of government: the patrols, the communities, and local governments. What is uniform is the aspect of militarization and the direct control of the military over these organizations. These local government bodies have to request permission to hold their meetings. Every so often the local authorities have to go to the military bases to make reports and coordinate activities. They necessarily have to attend whatever military ceremony is being held.

Despite this, they seem to be seeking some level of autonomy with regard to the military. There are reports about the "return to society" of some persons and "repentance" ceremonies that the patrols and communities are reportedly promoting in addition to central government policies in this regard. It is known that in the communities of the Alto Cunas area town meetings have been held at which those persons who still sympathized with the Shining Path movement have "repented" and have been "pardoned" and permitted to be "reincorporated" into the local community.

Another area concerns production and development. Several communities are trying to reestablish contact with government institutions to resume work on development projects that were halted by the Shining Path movement. On the other hand, to the extent that Shining Path opposition is not significant, civil defense patrols are directing part of their efforts to production. In this area they work with communal committees specifically charged with organizing production.

In general the activities of the civil defense patrols in this area have not been in conflict with production. The basic condition for this is that they are not spending much time on security tasks. The danger has declined significantly, and the amount of time spent on tasks involving control and surveillance activity is relatively low.

Therefore, in the political context of total subordination to the Armed Forces the civil defense patrols and farming communities are finding room to maneuver, particularly in the field of production, which makes it possible for them to exercise executive authority appropriate to the management of their resources and decisionmaking.

This attitude is reportedly also being expressed in other areas. There are reports that, in at least one place during the recent elections, probably in connection with a plan that sought the political legitimation of members of civil defense patrols, the military reportedly supported their own lists of candidates. In this connection they reportedly provided resources and support for their candidates. Nevertheless, despite these hints, the people elected their own candidates.

On the other hand, in areas at lower elevations in the valley, the Shining Path movement has not attacked the interests of a significant group of people, nor has it threatened income generating activity aimed at survival, as certainly took place in the case of a number of communities. Therefore, residents of the towns do not feel concerned. They do not feel that their interests are threatened and, therefore, they prefer not to become involved. That is what characterizes the principal resistance in the communities at lower levels in the valley to organize civil defense patrols. The Army has plans to set up patrols in the lower altitude parts of the valley, whatever the cost.

Human Rights: the Drama Continues

Two new cases of presumed arrest and disappearance were reported during the second week of February 1993. According to a complaint from family members, at about 2300 on 11 February a group of armed men, their faces covered by Balaclava helmets and in military uniform, broke into the home of Rony Guerra Blancas, a student in the Faculty of Anthropology of the Universidad Nacional del Centro [National University of Central Peru]. They arrested him and took him away in handcuffs to an unknown destination in an unidentified vehicle. Before taking him away the unknown persons apparently made a careful search of the student's property.

Elsewhere, at 0200 on 12 February a group of 10 armed persons, dressed in civilian clothes and with their faces covered by Balaclava helmets, entered the home of Milagro Flor Tupa Gonzales, a student at the Faculty of Social Work of the same university. After threatening Lupecindo Tupac Alan, her uncle, with a gun the unknown persons kidnapped the young woman and took her away to an unknown place in a vehicle whose characteristics could correspond, according to the complaint, to the vehicle used by the Army to make its purchases in the city market. Before taking her away those involved in this incident also searched her belongings.

According to unofficial reports from the Office of the Public Prosecutor, both students belonged to the Committee on Admissions of the National University of Central Peru, which a short time previously had held an admissions examination. The two students were in love with each other. Public opinion in Huancayo has compared this case with that of the university students kidnapped and executed around the middle of 1992.

The Judicial District of Junin has one of the highest number of complaints concerning arrests and disappearances during the past few years. To mention only some details of this record: according to the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights, during 1992, 147 complaints were received regarding arrest and disappearance and simple disappearance. Of these cases 57 were resolved because the victims reappeared alive. Another 16 persons turned up dead, their bodies showing signs of torture and execution by gunshot. Some 74 cases remain to be resolved. As of the end of 1992 nothing was known about them.

Cases of "Repentance": the Law Does Not Operate

Some months ago the government undertook a psychological-social campaign aimed at causing desertions from the ranks of subversive groups. To do this, it offered a number of benefits to those who surrendered and provided information to the authorities. Nevertheless, it appears that the legal procedure set up for this program is not functioning.

According to the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights in Junin, there were 64 cases of "repentance" in Vilcacoto, Pariahuanca, and other areas in the southern part of the Department of Junin. The individuals involved are presently held at military bases in the area. Of the 64 cases only two have received the proper, legal handling. That is reportedly due, not only to the usual slowness in the administration of justice, but also to the fact that the military authorities are still not familiar with legal procedures. It happens that a person who expresses "repentance" runs the risk of being prosecuted for "terrorism." Despite the fact that the person expressing "repentance" during the police investigation of his or her case is supposed to be subject to special treatment that guarantees, among other things, confidentiality and secrecy regarding his identity, in effect such a person is considered to be a police witness. In these circumstances his or her case goes to the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, which often declines to make a decision, despite having the authority to decide not to take the case before a court. In the Judicial Branch of the government there is a similar problem: the judges are afraid to rule in favor of persons expressing "repentance."

This leads to a situation which seriously limits the effectiveness of the existing, legal process. Furthermore, seeking more security, those expressing "repentance" may decide to surrender to the military who, on their own authority, decide how these cases are to be handled. Therefore, it would seem that arbitrary decisions are made, and the law remains in limbo.

As can be seen, the failure to apply a law which is considered to be a success by jurists is absolutely counterproductive for the struggle against subversion.

A Preliminary Balance Sheet

In general, in the Mantaro Valley area the Shining Path movement seems to have been seriously damaged. The strategy of the farmers' civil defense patrols has forced the movement to withdraw into the cities, and particularly Huancayo, where they have attempted to reorganize their war strategy for the region. The clear tendency in the country is the consolidation and legitimation of civil defense patrols and the alliance between the farmers and the Armed Forces.

In the city, a part of the Shining Path structure seems to have been affected, with the systematic disappearance and extrajudicial execution of university students during the middle of 1992. Nevertheless, it is known that the highest regional leadership of Shining Path has been little affected. As a result, it is speculated that these leaders are engaged in an effort to reorganize and redirect Shining Path strategy in the area. Its strategic importance is a key factor in their "war."

Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that this reorganization is being carried out from the same places that have been captured by the Armed Forces. As a result there is no possibility that it will be achieved over the short run.

Much will depend on how the government and civilian society at this time work to prevent such a reorganization. In that sense military strategy, carried out without any legal limitations or restrictions, now seems to have reached its limits.

Uruguay

Government Demands Argentina Honor Border Treaty

PY1505032293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Montevideo, 14 May (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla said today that his country will "firmly" defend its sovereignty and will demand that Argentina respect the two countries' border treaty, which is affected by the dredging of the Mitre Channel, in the River Plate.

The Argentine Government, headed by President Carlos Menem, approved the documents on working conditions unilaterally and without communicating its decision to the River Plate Administration Commission, which is integrated with representatives from both countries, as required by existing bilateral agreements.

Foreign Minister Abreu said: "We will defend our sovereignty and the respect for agreements with calmness, respect, and firmness."

The Uruguayan Government wants Argentina to respect the River Plate Borders Treaty signed by Presidents Juan Domingo Peron (Argentina) and Juan Maria Bordaberry (Uruguay) at the beginning of the 1970's and the exchange letters signed by Presidents Carlos Menem and Luis Alberto Lacalle to promote the construction of the Martin Garcia project.

Official spokesmen have said that the Argentine Government resolution to approve unilaterally working conditions for dredging the Mitre Channel violates Article 17 of the Borders Treaty in effect between the two countries.

This article says: "The party projecting to build new channels, modify or significantly alter existing ones, or implement any new works in the area must communicate it to the River Plate Administration Commission. The Commission will issue an opinion in not more than 30 days stating whether the project would hurt the other party's navigation interests or affect the river system."

The Foreign Ministry spokesmen said: "The Uruguayan Government will not give up its rights on the defense of its sovereignty within the framework of existing treaties."

"The shield for small countries such as Uruguay is the law, and this government will use all mechanisms available within the law to see that its relations with Argentina remain on the path of mutual respect for our national dignity and sovereignty," the sources added.

Abreu Bonilla, his Argentine counterpart Guido Di Tella, and a group of advisers met in Montevideo on 15 April to ratify "the full and total validity" of the River Plate Treaty.

Venezuela

Supreme Court President's Report on Perez Noted

PA1505134193 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 May 93 p D1

[Report by Jesus Eduardo Brando; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez is the main suspect in the alleged embezzlement of 250 million bolivares from the secret fund because he directly participated in the key moment of its implementation, the initial phase, which subsequently resulted in a large number of irregularities, a report by Magistrate Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, stated.

The report is more than 289 pages long and includes Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar Salom's theory that the president of the Republic and former Ministers Alejandro Izaguirre (interior) and Reinaldo Figueredo (secretariat) are guilty of misappropriation and embezzlement as outlined and punished in Articles 60 and 58 of the Law for the Protection of Public Patrimony.

The report states that according to the prosecutor general's request, "it has been proved that the funds were

not used as originally intended, thus they were misappropriated. Also, given the large number of irregularities detected, no one has been able to clearly ascertain where a major portion of the funds went. Due to the irregular circumstances existing before, during, and after the resources were obtained, one cannot rule out the possibility that they were destined for illegal purposes, a hypothesis that results in an embezzlement case."

According to the reasoning used by Magistrate Rodriguez Corro in his report, the case reveals the idea, determination, or intention to acquire additional funds within the concept of security and state defense expenses, and those funds could have only been provided by the president of the Republic.

All this seems to indicate that a presidential order set in motion, quickly and without obstacles, the mechanisms to achieve that goal. Moreover, that is what usually happens in the Venezuelan system where, as a general rule, presidential orders or wishes are not disputed.

It is logical to presume that from the very first moment of the operation the idea was to favor unjustifiably the minister of the Presidency Secretariat, thus making the agency operating under the Presidency of the Republic the main beneficiary of funds that were obtained in a suspicious, irregular, and illegal manner. It seems the funds were spent without leaving a trace.

The report later states: "....the president of the Republic has become the first suspect because he directly participated in the key moment of its implementation, the initial phase, which subsequently resulted in a large number of irregularities and provoked a major scandal. That can be explained by the fact that whoever exercises the role of president cannot be accused beforehand of directly or indirectly participating, either in person or through third parties, by action or omission, in the subsequent irregularities or of knowing the details of possible consequences that might result from his initial action. However, it would also be absurd to imagine that whoever requested the funds was unaware of the resulting events, including the critical irregularity of changing the destination and beneficiary.

All this indicates the need to try the person who appears to be the main promoter of adjusting the budget, because it is legally necessary to determine if the funds secured in an apparently dishonest fashion were improperly used to favor a person or group.

The presumption that a dishonest action was committed gains merit because there is evidence that the money was secured through an entity known as Recadi [Differential Exchange System] that has been characterized as the main source of corruption of the political and economic system in Venezuela.

The court, after examining facts and circumstances, believes any decision not to try the president in this case would mean pushing Venezuela's legal system back to the past era of state authoritarianism when chiefs of state exercised virtual hegemonic powers, which is linked to their irresponsible behavior while in government. "No one is above the law," the document states.

Based on the analysis of the adjustment and the process that followed, Rodriguez Corro believes "there are serious doubts whether legal and authorized requirements were met in the public credit operations, in the currency exchange manipulations that followed, and in the utilization of the resources. In any case, the official explanations are completely equivocal."

In addition, when confronting official reports with the facts derived from the acts of the process, the official version appears inconsistent, incongruous, terse, insincere, and simplistic.

"In view of these considerations, the Supreme Court of Justice plenum, administering justice on behalf of the Republic, lawfully and in keeping with the Constitution and the legal dispositions mentioned in this document, specifically Articles 146 and 147 of the Supreme Court of Justice basic law, issues the following pronouncement:

"First: Declares that there is merit to try citizen Carlos Andres Perez Rodriguez, Venezuelan, adult, married, with identification card No.73,574, who is now president of the Republic, as established in issue No.34,142 of 23 January 1989 of the Official Gazette of Venezuela." The same ruling has been dictated for former ministers Alejandro Izaguirre and Reinaldo Figueredo.

Lepage Predicts Chaos if Perez Does Not Resign

PA1505193193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1748 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 15 May (NOTIMEX)—Octavio Lepage, leader of the Venezuelan Congress, warned that chaos will erupt in the country if President Carlos Andres Perez insists on remaining until the end of his presidential term in February 1994. Lepage, a member of the governing Democratic Action Party (AD), became the second high-ranking government leader to issue a warning about the persistent internal tension due to Perez' determination to remain in his position. Contrary to AD leader Humberto Celli, however, Lepage did not demand that the president resign. Over the 15 May weekend the internal differences in AD emerged between leaders who insist that the president resign if the Supreme Court rules he should be tried on corruption charges and other leaders who assert that he should end his five-year presidential term. According to media sources, Perez demanded that Celli be removed from the National Executive Committee, the top decisionmaking organization in AD, in retaliation for his public demand that the president resign on 20 May, the date the Supreme Court is scheduled to vote on a trial against the president. Lepage also distanced himself from Perez by pointing out that the president cannot force an interpretation of the Constitution that would allow him to appoint one of his ministers as his replacement. The minister would replace Perez for 90 days to allow him to

face embezzlement and misappropriation of funds charges. Lepage's warnings regarding Perez' insistence on remaining in power at all costs are due to the search for a mechanism that would allow the president to continue to implement his economic policy by appointing an official close to him. "The Constitution is not clear on the matter, which is inherently controversial," stated the Senate leader, who would become Perez's successor if the president should decide to resign. According to the 1961 Constitution, if the Supreme Court recommends that Perez be brought to trial, the Senate, which is controlled by the opposition, must ratify its position and initiate the process against the head of state, who would be temporarily suspended from his post. Lawyers have asserted that Perez could appoint his replacement before 20 May or in the hours or days prior to the Court's decision and the Senate's debate, when he would be separated from his post. In an attempt to show a united front, the ruling party issued a communique on 15 May stating that AD will adhere to the Constitution's stipulations, which do not include a presidential resignation but does allow for the "total absence" of the head of state. [sentence as received] Perez has stated that he will not deviate "a centimeter" from the Constitution's specifications, thus eliminating the possibility that he will quit and making it clear that he will await the Supreme Court's ruling and the subsequent Senate debate. Lepage, however, asked for "balanced and objective" actions by the president so "we do not fall into the temptation of violence."

AD Deputy Reasserts Support for President Perez

PA1605011593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] On 15 May, Democratic Action [AD] Deputy Hector Alonso Lopez reasserted his support for President Carlos Andres Perez. We were able to learn this following a meeting between the AD leader and President Perez at Miraflores Palace. Alonso Lopez said errors made by all those who have led the country cannot be attributed to President Perez.

He emphasized that the Venezuelan people must be alert regarding this situation or they will regret it later. He said a war was recently unleashed throughout the country against the head of state, led by those who incorrectly believe Venezuela's future can be built without Perez.

In his opinion, therein lies the mistake because the elimination of a president elected by the people can only prove that Venezuela's democracy is unstable.

[Begin Alonso Lopez recording] I cannot accept—and I say this while thinking about those who also want to carry out in-depth changes in the country—the fact that we, meaning this and future generations, must become the trustees of an inheritance that does not belong to us. I came to tell the president that I fully support a fellow party member. I said he could count on the solidarity of those who have known him. We—meaning our party members—cannot unwittingly become the allies of those who want to see the AD destroyed. I am talking about Humberto Celli's statements. I do not think they reflect the AD spirit, our spirit. [end recording]

Metropolitan Police Commander on Subversives

PA1505042993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] A number of strategic plans aimed at identifying subversive groups and eliminating the distress they cause were set in motion on 13 May.

This information was released by General Vinicio Barrios Puche, metropolitan police commander, who said that Third Path, Red Flag, and Popular Disobedience are among the groups that have been identified.

In addition, the police chief explained that the corps under his command is ready to provide a timely response to the disturbances of the public order that have been taking place.

Barrios Puche called on all those who are into politics to reflect, as he believes some parties are using these subversive groups as a double facade.

Armed Forces Chief on Subversives, Security

PA1505042693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Vice Admiral Radames Munoz, Armed Forces chief of staff, in reference to the subversive activities that have been detected in the country, has stated that the Armed Forces will not allow the minority who have not adapted to the current situation to hurt society. The vice admiral made these statements after a meeting with General Vinicio Barrios Puche, metropolitan police commander, in which they analyzed different points regarding security in the metropolitan area and social situations in the capital. Radames Munoz asserts that the situation is under control and that the problem is being attacked by acting efficiently and forcefully but without resorting to violence:

[Begin Munoz recording] We have very precise information regarding the subversive movements that could stage this kind of action and we are working on some kind of follow-up operation, until we have the opportunity to take forceful action. [end recording]

Government Employees in Caracas Stage Demonstration

PA1805000593 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 93

[Interview with Caracas Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz by reporter Alexander Barrios at City Hall in Libertadores, Caracas—live]

[Text] [Barrios] A large number of government employees who have been on strike for the past several days have gathered in front of City Hall in Libertadores Municipality. Here with me is Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz, who just concluded a meeting with representatives from the National United Federation of Public Employees [FEDE-UNEP]. Mr. Mayor, what is the situation now that a number of requests made by the employees have been rejected? There are reports to the effect that this is a political conflict. What is the situation?

[Isturiz] I have simply held a meeting with FEDE-UNEP leaders. I am willing to meet with them at any time, even at night. Anytime they want to talk I am willing to promote and achieve the solution of any given conflict as long as they present their case in a realistic manner. They have asked me to mediate with the comptroller; I am to ask him to appoint a labor-management arbitration board to review the 27 pending cases. In theory, there were 85 cases, but they are discussing 27 of them. Twenty cases involved trusted employees and 35 are cases that not even FEDE-UNEP can defend. At any rate, they are dealing with over 20 cases and they say they are willing to participate in an arbitration board. This is what I had suggested before they began the strike; I asked them to accept an arbitration board that would review the cases and they refused because they wanted the employees to be reinstated prior to a revision. Today they admitted that a revision is in order. I will explain this to the comptroller, but I do not know how he will react now because the strike was declared illegal. He has a writ of amparo and the comptrollership has been paralyzed for over 15 days. That, however, is water under the bridge. I will make an effort because as mayor it is my duty to normalize municipal life.

[Barrios] In any case, Mr. Mayor, government employees are staging a huge demonstration in front of City Hall, and I understand this has been prohibited by Federal District authorities. Could this cause problems?

[Isturiz] I believe in democracy and I believe the employees have a right to march. There are employees out there from all the state institutions, ministries, and the governor's office. As you can see, they are not only City Hall employees. To begin with, I do not know if the number of people out there is representative of all the government employees and second, I am not opposed to demonstrations. I say that demonstrations are a freedom of choice; I believe in democracy. I am not opposed to their staging a demonstration out there. This is why I have told the strikers that they should not engage in violence against employees who want to work. Since I have allowed them to stage a demonstration they should allow those who want to work to do so.